

MACLEAN'S

THE IRAQ CAMPAIGN

Why the Canadian military isn't ready for war

BOOMING REAL ESTATE

The housing market is hot—but is it a bubble?

A STAR IS BORN

Meet 12-year-old Aselin Debison of Glace Bay

EXCLUSIVE POLL

**FROM TOTS
TO TEENS,
WHAT
PARENTS
DON'T
KNOW
(or won't
admit)**



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The kids are *really* all right

Boasting about our children, as our poll shows, is a very Canadian thing to do

I **LOVED** the car and the neighbourhood in which I grew up, but I don't look back on either with false nostalgia. Sure, divorced parents were still a rarity, but, based on some noisy scores I saw at friends' houses, some couples had no business staying together. Parents didn't worry about kids playing outside on their own nearly as much as they do today, but they probably should have. I remember, for example, the well-spoken, white-haired manager who sometimes appeared at the local park, introducing himself as "Uncle Bill" to per teenage girls and offering beer. Some dangers originated at home, as with a friend who would occasionally show up with bruises and cuts, after his father enforced discipline with his belt. Others drew their muscles about things that troubled them, like the friend who had a series of unhappy relationships with girls as a teenager, and finally announced he was 35 years later, after he'd moved to another city.

Many things have changed since then. One constant is that it's not always easy being a kid—especially a teenager. If anything, I'd suggest, the challenges and dangers teenagers faced 30 or 40 years ago—drugs, alcohol, street violence, and peer pressure to engage in those—are more pronounced today, and augmented by new problems: the "Cute Bill" of my day can now also be found trolling the Web in search of cybersex. What's surprising is how many parents often forget the difficulties of their own youth, as somehow believe that as parents they've found a way to immunize their problems for their own kids. For evidence of that, consider some of the findings of the poll on Canadian parental attitudes that we feature in this issue's cover story. Among other things, 95 per cent of respondents describe the children as "happy and well balanced." In the same time, they give themselves equally high marks as parents: 93 per cent of respon-

dents consider themselves either "good" or "excellent" parents. And one-half of respondents rank their own preschool kids as "above average"—a figure that rises to 72 per cent among respondents with teenagers.

On the one hand, at least some of those parents are clearly delusional: there's no way, for example, that only four per cent of Canadian kids don't qualify as "happy and well-balanced." On the other hand, there's something touching about this reluctant optimism: the respondents are being kind to judge their own kids, and, as such, reflect their belief in the innate goodness of their own and others.

There's a binding quality to parent hood that allows even complete strangers to find common ground with each other, no matter how profound the other issues that might divide them. It's no accident that two of the most talked-about shows on TV focus largely on the sheer banality of the everyday lives of otherwise extraordinary families. One lesson of *The O'Connors* is that even a drug-addicted, gun-toting work star like Gary (Dale Gribble), first and foremost about family much like the rest of us. On *Desperate Housewives*, the mother died in the bell tower. The *Stepwives*, who whack the enemies without a second thought, but is helpless at getting his own family to shake his bad habits. Both shows make the point that kids are the great equalizer: everything else in life pales alongside our success or failure as parents. That knowledge is, of course, both the blessing and the burden we place on our children.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

Special thanks to the contributors to The Editor's Letter

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'As I see it, we have been jolted out of our cocoon of avoidance and comfort with the grief and terror of the Sept. 11 attack on the United States.' —JAMES WATSON, VICTIM

Reflections on Sept. 11

I was in dividing the watching emotions that the horrible pictures of last year evoke, but even the pictures in your cover package were well chosen ("September 11 one year later," Sept. 36). I enjoyed the great writing in Robert Sheppard's "The pilgrimage to Pittsburgh"—most phrases true, "small town custodian of a nation's grief." And I loved seeing John DeHaven's "Gates who came to dance—and stepped about Gander." My husband and I visited Newfoundland in the early 1990s and dubbed it Canada's best kept secret. Thank you for sensitive, thought-provoking and positive coverage of a life-shaking event.

Heather Patella, Vancouver

Congratulations on your 366-degree view of Sept. 11. It was thoughtful, comprehensive and deeply evocative of the trauma of 9/11. I read a cover to cover, one-stop. Special thanks for giving The Back Page for Torontoan Kamran's excellent reflective piece, "My Islamic roots, my American home."

Lee Moffat, Belmont, Ont.

On Sept. 12, 2002, my 12-year-old son and I drove into the U.S. Midwest to begin a year needed for our sons in northern Ontario. He immediately asked the large number of "God Bless America" signs. But it was overlooking the ferry-carrying man at the next table in an Iowa diner rather loudly saying grace and smiling at with "God bless America" that made us realize to what extent Americans have come to believe God has signed an exclusive contract with them. Later, my son remarked, "I wonder if God has any turn left to bless Canada."

Matthew Thompson, Clinton, Ont.

The U.S. has always had some sort of a moral advantage in world affairs, but that's a new being tested. The CIA's tacit co-opting in Latin America and other places. When Iraq was busy passing the deadline,



the U.S. was silent. When the U.S. rescued Kuwait, it restored a dictatorship rather than creating a democracy. In the fight against al-Qaeda, the U.S. does not treat its prisoners as prisoners of war, nor as criminals. Rather, it keeps them in such kennels in Cuba. Now the U.S. is demanding Iraq adhere to UN resolutions or face invasion. But it doesn't insist on the same compliance for Israel, which is also violating UN resolutions and already has nuclear weapons. Power has never been needed.

Tom Thibault, Ottawa

I had been hoping that somewhere, somehow, in some publication, on TV or in print I could read a piece that really touched me and made all the rest seem easy. I found it in "Rememberance and the closer to finger" (The Elder's Letter, Sept. 16). You have really captured the essence.

Tom Weber, Woodbridge, Ont.

The Christian years

Never have I agreed with a column more than with Peter C. Newman's "Our tough mother" (Sept. 9). Canadians more than require "a political leader for some articulate, flexible and inspiring" than just

Clinton, we deserve it, and should be demanding it. We are paying dearly for politicians who make ambiguity and indecision an art form, and we cringe whenever Clinton meets with a media phone. When I see Clinton's associates, confident and deceiving Tony Blair on television, I wonder why we are not like wise represented on the domestic and world stages.

George Wright, Mississauga, Ont.

Small-town veterans

Scoring Elton John in Sudbourn and Kelowna was a tremendous victory for those of us in small market towns who want to attract top-notch entertainment to what you so disarmingly refer to as the "boonies" ("ScoreCard," The Week, Sept. 9). Bryan Adams and Nickelback, to name a couple, decided that Grande Prairie, in northwestern Alberta, was a place they needed to play, and our town once appreciated their willingness to come. After the show is over, the T-shirts and CDs have been purchased and the building is cleared, it's the same as the big city, why one must differentiate—we all get home a whole lot faster.

Janet Gault-Wright, Grande Prairie, Alta.

Bare-bones education

I have finally figured out the Ontario government's game plan for education ("Quick, hide the pencils," The Week, Sept. 9). If they keep cutting the budget, reducing teaching staff, etc., they will eventually graduate classes of youngsters who don't even know what a government is, never mind how one works. Then the government will rule forever because no one will be educated enough to replace it. Glad the crap Christine Mitchell, Winnipeg, M.S.

Modified results

I was surprised to read in the excerpt from E. Ian MacDonald's book *From Bismarck to Bismarck* that "Alberta was a clean sweep of 26 Conservative seats" in the 1988 election dominated by the issue of the Free Trade Agreement ("The untold history of free trade," Gazette, Sept. 9). In fact, Ron Harvey of the NDP was elected as Education East to that election.

Brian Gidycz, Edmonton

4:30 a.m. Sick child. What now?



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THE MAIL

What parents need

Oh, please—Canada suddenly to babies ("Let's be baby friendly." Over to You, Sept. 9)? Susan McClelland bases her theory on the myth that it is an "interesting necessity for a household to have two full-time incomes." Try again, Susan. Many families, analyzing the value of raising their own children, opt to budget and live on the salary of one parent while the other remains parent. And please don't tell me that living on one salary would be responsible. Maintaining your present standard of living may be impossible on one salary, but living—with student, food and clothing—is most definitely possible. It is all a matter of choice.

Donna Pritchard, Melbourne, Ont.

Young marrieds 30 or 40 years ago expected to have less at first in order to have children. Vacations to sunny climes each year were not the expense, most who went to university worked their way through instead of borrowing from the government. If mothers had not accomplished the belief of motherhood, real estate prices (and) rises out of sight – the list could go on and on. As for the unnamed dad-to-be complaining to Susan McClelland about his wife leaving her \$70,000 job to raise their child, haven't they agreed up for the time she had ahead of her as a child-rearer? Why should we expect the government to pay any of us to have children?

Morten Mahay, Surrey B.C.

Women on maternity leave are treated like a burden in society. When I was going on leave after my son's birth 11 years ago, I was informed that, because I had taken time off when I was ill during the pregnancy, I did not have enough weeks to qualify for maternity benefits. But UIC said I did have enough hours to qualify for regular benefits (I've been willing and able to look for work "That I already have a job," I replied. "I don't need to look for work." The thoughtful and intelligent response was, "Why do you need benefits then?" I would like to see the parent bank in the driver's seat—with something similar to the parent advisory committees in schools—so we can take care of the needs of our children.

Sharon Bern, Kelowna, B.C.

THE MAIL

Care's conclusions

Although I do not dispute the logic of the argument Donald Coss put forward regarding energy prices and their effect on the economy, I do question his morality ("Reasons of war," Column, Sept. 9). Coss states we should all "root for Bushfield" in order to achieve lower costs for our energy needs in the future. What an irresponsible statement! We Canadians should support the slaughter of innocents in order to bring energy prices down to a reasonable level for the economy and to not our wasteful, environmentally damaging lifestyle!

Robert M. Heller, Surrey

I enjoy reading Donald Coss's columns, but I was stunned by the absurdity of his closing remarks in "A realistic nation looked to its future" (Economy, Sept. 16). "O Canada, you lost Big America, you're wanting Big." O Canada, his letter sacrificed the lives of a handful of his men, who murdered over 3,000 "infidels." He may have spent a million dollars or two writing up his devilishly clever scheme, but moral damage to America and his death of innocents and the total self-sacrifice. He imposed the way Americans think, the way they live. The aftermath of 9/11 continues to be felt by much of the Western world. Osama's "cruelty" investment yielded returns that would have seemed unimaginable in August, 2001. *Scott Lloyd*

Hillings, Langley B.C.

Class conclusions

As a high school student about to enter my last year, I feel Evan Margen is dead on ("Dead students scoring," Over to You, Sept. 2). But many students appreciate class days as time for learning. Often, they are the so-called "logical" minds of the classroom, engineers, mathematicians and scientists of tomorrow. For them, new understanding comes from connecting ideas, numbers and equations. It's difficult for the creative, abstract minds. Theory is no longer an interpretation of the events of the past, but meaningful ideas and names showed down our classes. My school is not diverse enough to be able to offer a philosophy course, but in that case, open discussion, critical analysis of ideas by peers, and the fac-



As the U.S. shows its confidence, readers question Donald Coss's take on the war on terrorism

ties of ideas is at least as important as America's birthday. But high school must be about what works for the maximum number of people.

Jeanylene Joynt, Deer River, Minn.

The public doesn't appreciate the skill of a teacher to integrate the learning needs of the class and to modify accordingly. But this modification and adaptation is now placed by large class sizes—up to 40 in the Halifax Regional system—as well as the inclusion of a medically and mentally challenged student. The result is a disadvantage for the classroom teacher to experience. What can be done to save the many Evans in the system? A start would be to give the schools more independence so that administrators are not constantly looking over their shoulders or fear that central office would not be happy. Encourage teachers to attend outside workshops or to set them up to attend workshops specific to their field. When I talk at my old school for a day, I plot to discuss Evan's article to my class. I will be very interested to hear what the students have to say.

Karen McClelland, Halifax

Ripeness is all

Your review of *King Lear* with Christopher Plummer reminded me of an old friend I had when, years ago, I watched *King Lear* with Peter Onorati ("Magical monarch," Theatre, Sept. 9). It seemed to me that

each time *Lear* appeared, the rest of the ensemble became part of the audience. The play seemed to sing as Onorati said his lines, then resound when he finished. Perhaps the fact he was the audience. We are going next to see *King Lear*, but to see Christopher Plummer playing *King Lear*.

Robert Isaac Milne, Burnaby, B.C.

Hiding the rails

A lifelong train buff, I read with pleasure your reports about the resurgence of unit travel ("All aboard," *Column*, Aug. 26). A world of custom is would-be travellers, however. Don't pay slot rates for business first-class on the Toronto-Montreal run—my first trip, to my wife and I did, hell on train travel. Yes, we found the reserved seats comfortable, the snack better, the service top. What we didn't count on was the cell phones among the right seats surrounding ours, all busy at one time or another.

Jack Bole, Irvine, N.S.

We just returned from an absolutely outstanding trip on B.C. Rail's Whistler/Northwest from Vancouver to Prince George. Now there is a treat for you. Via Rail could take lessons. The service, staff and cuisine were superb. And the scenery was awesome. We would recommend it to all Canadians who, as we do, have pride in our country.

Walter and Yvonne Hobbins, Kootenai, Ont.

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MACLEANS BEHIND THE SCENES



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A PASSION FOR BOOKS

It's no accident that Canadian authors dominate Maclean's weekly fiction best-sellers list, says senior writer Brian Bethune. "We're living in a golden age of Canadian fiction," says Bethune (above), who compiles the magazine's fiction and non-fiction lists after consulting independent booksellers across the country about weekly sales. "An extraordinary number of talented people are doing great things right now."

Bethune, who has a doctorate in medieval history from the University of Toronto, has compiled best-sellers lists for 12 years. During that period, he says, Canadian books have gotten consistently better and more interesting. "That's true of non-fiction as well as fiction, although it's harder to generalize about the former."

While Maclean's primary mandate is to review significant works by or about Canadians and things Canadian, "there's room for good stories and interesting subjects, regardless of origin," he adds.

Bethune particularly admires writers who convey the excitement of what they're portraying. He cites "laugh-mimicked economic historians like John Lukersmith (*Five Days in London*) and Donald McEwen, a Canadian who's written two brilliant books about the structure of the Old and New Testaments. I also enjoy (novelists) Ian McEwan (*Atonement*) and Richard Wright (*Black Cat*), who are exceptionally clear-eyed and unpretentious in their writing."

Bethune, who writes about Canadian authors Wayne Johnston and Katherine Gover in this week's issue, is unfazed by suggestions that we're living in a post-9/11 world. "Writing is still the primary human means of conveying complex ideas," he says. "No other art form approaches books in its ability to tell stories, which is how humans learn."

And like many Canadian parents, he's eagerly anticipating the publication of J.K. Rowling's next book. "My children keep asking me about when the next Harry Potter is coming out," he says.

Brian Bethune's book reviews appear regularly in Maclean's.

For further information, contact:

THE WEEK



Middle East | **Will suicide bombings and a strike in Israel**

It had been an uneasy period of quiet. And it came to a bloody end on Sept. 18 when a suicide bomber writing to brand a son in *Umm el-Fahm* blew himself up as Israeli police approached him, killing one officer and injuring three other people. A day later, a second suicide bomber killed himself as a bus in Tel Aviv, rendering six Israeli in the process and injuring more than 50. Israel reacted swiftly, deploying forces against the compound of beleaguered Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat which had already been badly damaged in previous attacks. Tanks and bulldozers destroyed their buildings, leaving the structure where Arafat was holed up as one of the few left standing. Twenty Palestinians gave themselves up in Israeli forces, while an Israeli sniper killed an Arafat bodyguard.

"Washington urged restraint, noting that moves to replace the Palestinian government must establish a Palestinian state had been gathering steam. "Significant progress had been made behind the scenes in the Palestinian Authority, and there had been a sustained period of quiet without roadside bombings," said White House press secretary Ari Fleischer. And a tough Israeli response would mean trouble for U.S. attempts to build an Arab coalition. Saudi Arabia, for one, had withheld its answer against an attack on Iraq, saying it would support a UN-sponsored campaign and allow U.S. troops to stage attacks from as far as Iraq ranged on to get closer to allow weapons inspections. But the Saudis would cease under pressure to withdraw support of the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel, a warning U.S. officials say and anti-Americans in the region increase.

Smoke more than the chairman's compound in Ramallah is (over) estimates for a new episode of violence.

A Peter Stone
Langevin's latest novel, *Baron's*, is a gripping story of a gay man's journey from childhood to adulthood. It's a story of a man's journey from childhood to adulthood. It's a story of a man's journey from childhood to adulthood.

A Queen Elizabeth II
Willing to put up with the criticism of her role in the 1982 Falklands war, the Queen is now facing a new challenge. It's a story of a man's journey from childhood to adulthood.

ScoreCard

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Is General Electric's debt struggles to pay about million annual payments after giving up control of company at New York City apartment and other value. Most goods: Forget first rule of business, cover your assets.

▶ **Michael R. Williams**
Is head of Williams' things also summer's events—miles record 1000 with Williams in Vancouver Symphony. Now that's a real worthy investment.

▶ **John Murphy**
Is head of Murphy's things also summer's events—miles record 1000 with Murphy in Vancouver Symphony. Now that's a real worthy investment.

▶ **Daniel Murphy**
Is head of Murphy's things also summer's events—miles record 1000 with Murphy in Vancouver Symphony. Now that's a real worthy investment.

▶ **Peter Stone**
Langevin's latest novel, *Baron's*, is a gripping story of a gay man's journey from childhood to adulthood. It's a story of a man's journey from childhood to adulthood.

▶ **Queen Elizabeth II**
Willing to put up with the criticism of her role in the 1982 Falklands war, the Queen is now facing a new challenge. It's a story of a man's journey from childhood to adulthood.

Quote of the week | "I'd rather jump off the Peace Tower than raise the GST. I'm not planning to jump off the Peace Tower."

FRANCE HINGSTER JOHN MURPHY putting the blame on politicians that the sales rise to hike the GST to 10 per cent from seven per cent



Justice | How a mayor's suspicions led to a blackmail trial

It appears from testimony at an extortion trial in Swift Current, Sask., that the suspect "politics makes strange bedfellows" can be taken too literally. Ed Lang, 74, and his son Doug, 38, are accused of trying to blackmail longtime mayor Paul Elzky into hiring them as a campaigning pension slave. Elzky had reported workers to tell city council that he had hired them because he felt the deals were better for the citizens than for the city. He testified last week that on Sept. 25, 2006, he received a phone call from a woman claiming to be from Maclean's and inviting him to her

Doug and Ed Lang on their way to court

hotel room. Suspicious of her claims to be a reporter—and thinking she sounded like a cut-throat—he went accompanied by a colleague and an RCMP officer. Their hosts were awestruck. The woman who had placed the call, Emily Ischey, testified that Ed Lang, with whom she had a seven-year sexual relationship, had organized the setup and was in an adjoining hotel room. Ischey, who has not been charged, said she panicked and ran out another way when she saw three people at the door. The trial continues.

are the largest minority in Sri Lanka, an island nation of 20 million people off the southern tip of India.

Link rage

It is one of the more talked-about moments in Canadian sports history: During the 1992 Summer Games between Canada and the Soviet Union, Bobby Clarke slashed and broke the stick of Soviet star Valeri Kharlamov. Now, with the Canadian team about to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the epic hockey battle, Paul Henderson, who scored the

series' winning goal, said Clarke's slash was like "thanking a guy in the hallway." Clarke, the general manager of the Philadelphia Flyers, was outraged. "He attacked me for something I did 30 years ago. It really annoys me."

Groupaction added

The RCMP seized several hard drives and took away seven boxes of documents from Groupaction Marketing, a Mississauga advertising firm with close ties to the Liberal party. The raid was part of a criminal investigation into how the firm

disposed of \$1.6 million in government money it received to compile those reports between 1996 and 1999. One of the reports was never produced while two were reconstructed using loose papers.

More murder charges

Police sifting through piles of dirt at a B.C. hog farm found enough evidence for five more murder charges to be laid against Robert William Pickton in what may turn out to be the worst mass killing in Canadian history. Police have been searching the Pickton farm since February, after a corpse belonging to one of nearly 70 women who have gone missing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside since the mid-1980s was found in a near-by ditch. So far, Pickton has been charged in the deaths of 31 women whose DNA has been discovered on the farm.

Gambling terrorists

A prosecutor at the bail hearing for six suspected al-Qaeda terrorists arrested at their homes in Larkovans, N.Y., earlier this month said the men should remain in jail until their trial because they have ample financial resources to flee. His reasoning: one of them last almost \$100,000 in gambling winnings in Niagara Falls, Ont., while another attempted (and failed) to convert US\$15,000 into Canadian funds. The six U.S. citizens—all of Syrian descent—are charged with providing support or resources to terrorist terrorists. A magistrate is expected to rule on the bail issue this week.

Inflation on the rise

Canada is likely to cost more soon. Two days after Bank of Canada governor David Dodge supplied that interest rates will rise again, a new inflation report made it even more probable. Dodge had hedged on the timing of an increase, pointing to "downside risks" including the slack U.S. economy and the troubled international situation. But this week the August inflation report from Statistics Canada—an overall annual rise of 3.6 per cent, an 11-month high, due in part to rising energy and expensive prices. The so-called core inflation rate hit 2.5 per cent, approaching the top end of Dodge's one-to-three-per-cent target. The bank's next review of interest rates is set for Oct. 16.

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North Korea!
Kim Il Sung

Life in North Korea has always been bizarre. Children were taught that the communist state's founder, the late Kim Il Sung, and his son Kim Jong Il, who currently leads the country, were godlike. At the age of seven, children were assigned uniforms and socks and ordered to memorize the speeches of their leader. A massive secret police network repressed the population into submission. But the latest revelations, coming from the still secretive country instead of the like-

tried ones, fact. During a historic summit with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang to establish diplomatic relations, Kim Jong Il admitted that his country had kidnapped 12 Japanese citizens during the 1970s and 1980s and brought them to North Korea to teach Japanese to Koreans again.

The kidnappings were carried out by secret agents who clandestinely went to Japan in speedboats. Some Japanese were abducted during a stroll on the beach, others while they were on a date or taking a coffee break. They were forced onto the

Stegens Yonkai and his wife, Sakai, after learning their kidnapped daughter was dead.

boats and then taken to Pyongyang, where they were brainwashed and drugged. Of the 12 Japanese citizens North Korea admitted to kidnapping, eight are now dead, while officials said the remaining four could return if they wished. But many Japanese believe dozens more were kidnapped and have not been mentioned to cover up the crime. "The special forces were carried away in a hidden quest for glory," said Kim Jong Il. "I have taken steps to ensure it will never happen again."



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WHY THE CANADIAN MILITARY ISN'T READY FOR A WAR

AS A NATION, we sent about 600,000 to fight the First World War, killed more than a million men and women in battle France, and committed almost 25,000 troops to a "police action" in Korea. Today, it's a struggle to keep a few hundred soldiers on the battlefield. The submarine leak, the helicopter are antiquated, and the infantry can't get the right colour of census flag. Canada's once proud military appears to have reached the breaking point.

This year, Ottawa will spend \$31.8 billion on a defence force that numbers just 60,000 people. Over the next five years, the military will also have an additional \$3.1 billion in spend. But in the United States again bears the brunt of war, Canada is quietly serving men and our forces might not be in a position to join an attack on Iraq, even if we wanted to. "If we were really, really pushed, we could muster the soldiers," John McCallum, the minister of defence, told *Maclean's*. "How long they would stay—that's another matter."

Ottawa has so far shown little interest in signing on for phase two of George W. Bush's war on terror, and a decision last week by Saddam Hussein to allow UN arms inspectors back into Iraq appears to have delayed any onset of hostilities. Tough talk still ruled the day—the Bush administration released a report outlining an aggressive new defence policy that would favour pre-emptive action against terrorist groups and hostile states. But McCallum, speaking about a hypothetical Canadian participation in a U.S.-led coalition against Iraq, said Canadian forces simply aren't ready to go back to war. "We could, but we would be stretching them and causing family problems. We already have two ships out there that could help, we would have some capability on the air front. We could send some soldiers, but we would rather not send them until six to 30 months down now."

Eight hundred infantry members returned home this summer after a six-month tour of duty in Afghanistan, and a Canadian Naval Task Group in the Arabian Gulf has been scaled back to three ships from six. Military officials worry that a quick call for another deployment will strain resources, and personnel. "They are, legitimately, very concerned about stretching people to the point where they might quit, or we are treating them very unfairly," says McCallum.

In recent years, the alarm over the crumbling state of Canada's military has been sounded on many times that it has ceased to cause any pain. Between 1993 and 1998, the Department of National Defence saw its budget slashed by 23 per cent as the federal government wrestled with the deficit. Bases were closed,

JONATHAN GATEHOUSE
reports on the sorry state of the country's armed forces. Years of neglect have created a climate of dysfunction.



equipment purchases were postponed, the military trimmed 21,000 positions, and commitments to NATO and peacekeeping were reduced. While Ottawa has returned funding to early 1990s levels, the lion's share of the new money—\$3.9 billion—has gone to improve pay and living conditions for soldiers, sailors and air crew. Now,

defence supporters are calling for a massive cash infusion to upgrade or replace the military's aging hardware. (Among the priorities replacing the navy's 40-year-old Sea King helicopters. The Liberals cancelled a \$4.4-billion chopper deal in 1993, but have yet to approve a scaled-back \$2-billion version of the project.)

Last year, the auditor general found Canadian Forces now spend a full 28 per cent of their budget maintaining, managing and repairing equipment. Thousands of weapons in key occupations such as engineers and weapon technicians remain unfilled in new recruits as on-basis waiting specialized training. Recently, an all-party Commons defence committee recommended an immediate \$2 billion budget increase for the military, and that \$1 billion is needed just to maintain the status quo. A similar Senate body has called for \$4 billion more a year.

The situation has reached crisis proportions, says author and military historian Jack Granatstein, co-chair of the Council for Canadian Security in the 21st Century, a defence lobby group. After suffering a decade-long slide from a "third-world crisis," the ancient Canadian Forces are now on the verge of collapse, he says. The last formal review of defence policy, produced in 1994, calls for a modern, globally deployable, combat-capable military that can indefinitely maintain 4,000 troops in the field. But in reality, says Granatstein, Canada is leaning heavily on its allies just to sustain its token participation in international operations—troops had to hitch a ride with the Americans to Afghanistan, while during the Kosovo campaign Canadian mercenaries had to borrow space planes to keep our CF-18 flying. A recently released study by the House of Commons is losing international credibility and influence, and calls for at least \$2.5 billion a year more in military spending. "Military power still matters," says Granatstein. "When people talk about powerful nations, they don't mean moral power."

The situation is serious enough that some of our closest allies are publicly raising questions about Canada's military competence. Paul Cellucci, the American ambassador in Canada, says the United States is deeply grateful for the "valuable contributions" the Canadian Forces have made to the war on terror, but adds his country worries about the future of our military. "If Sept. 11 has taught us anything, it has reminded us that we live in a very dangerous world, and that having a viable military is important to all our lives," says Cellucci. The Bush administration is urging Ottawa to substantially

increase defence spending. The Canadian Forces need more troops, hardware that is technically compatible with advanced American equipment, and the capacity to airlift themselves to an international hot spot, says the ambassador. "It seems to us you shouldn't have to rely on other countries to get your troops where they're needed," he adds.

The Americans won't say just how much more they believe Ottawa should be spending on defence, but Cellucci insists that Canada make toward the bottom of NATO members in terms of military spending as a percentage of gross domestic product. According to the United Nations Human Development report, Canada spent the equivalent of 1.3 per cent of its GDP on military expenses in 1998, making seventh of the G8 countries, and well behind NATO allies like Greece, Norway and Denmark. In 1990, prior to the budget cuts, Ottawa spent two per cent of GDP on the Canadian Forces (Canada ranks third as the UN world quality of life index, partially because we spend so little on arms and more in areas such as health and education.)

But as more and more voices join the chorus for increased funding, some critics are cautioning voters and the government to take a hard look at where we already pay so much for. Scott Taplin, editor of the military magazine *Expeditor* at Corps, says the Canadian Forces' deep systemic problems can't be solved by a simple cash infusion. "We could pre-pay these guys \$5 billion more a year and I'm not going to make a difference," he says. "Years of budget cuts, neglect and infighting among the services have created a climate of dysfunction, where good money is frequently thrown after bad. 'Nobody wants to admit that there has been a lack of foresight,' says Taylor. "You need a blueprint for the future and a management team that can put it in place." Military planners need to scale back their aspirations for big radar scans like jets and ships, he says. "We could do a hell of a lot more operations if that was the emphasis."

Others argue that Canada has lost touch with the moral values that have traditionally shaped our world outlook. Ernie Regehr, director of Project Ploughshares, a peace and disarmament think tank sponsored by Canada's major churches,

says there is more than one method to build global security. "Global security is which we contribute to world peace—foreign aid, diplomacy—have had their spending cut at least as drastically as the military has," says Ruggie. Despite Prime Minister Jean Charest's recent appeals to Western countries to spend more on world development, Canada's record of giving remains steady. "We now spend just 25 per cent of our GNP on foreign aid, about half of what we contributed in 1991."

When Parliament reconvenes on Sept. 30, questions of military spending are sure to be high on the opposition's agenda. But the campaign for an increased share of the shrinking budget will be fierce. Liberal insiders are already talking about introducing new initiatives for health care, the environment, urban urban centres, and First Nations. Montreal's daily *La Presse* has even floated the idea—once flatly denied that Prime Minister John Manley is considering increasing the GST to 10 per cent to pay for the raft of new programs.

With the Defense Department coming out as a winner in the last three budgets, few observers are predicting the numerous types of funding increases military supporters say are needed. Evan McCullum, a former chief economist for the Royal Bank, seems resigned to the idea of making do with what's available. "We need a significant contraction of resources to be sustainable in the long term, both on the people side and on the capital side," he says. "But we're certainly not going to get \$4 billion." With no major decision as the horizon, the challenge for Charest's soldiers, air crew and sailors will be the same as it has been for a decade—getting the job done, even if it means bunking out the churning gear, setting and dust cups.

jane@canada.com



On the ground near Qalat, Afghanistan

WILL IRAQ CO-OPERATE?

A weapons inspector says Saddam has little choice

Donald Clementson was working for the Department of External Affairs in 1991, helping to develop techniques to verify compliance with international arms treaties, when he was assigned to the first team of UN weapons inspectors going to Iraq. The Persian Gulf War had just ended, and the Iraqis were co-operative. But Clementson, who lives in Ottawa, went to Iraq again in 1995, and this time found local authorities deceptive and well-schooled in misleading the inspectors. Clementson is now one of 14 UN commissioners involved in overseeing the latest UN team planning to head into Iraq this week with Michael's World Editor Tom Hume.



Clementson in 1991 in an Iraqi nuclear facility

Does Iraq possess weapons of mass destruction?

"I'm not sure of the case that is being built against them. For example, people in the United States are saying they have barrels of Soviet missiles. They clearly don't—the US has accounted for 811 of the 812 missiles they had. There was no nuclear weapons program in 1988, and we would be able to identify it if there was one now. As far as chemical weapons go, I believe 95 per cent of their supplies were destroyed."

And germ warfare?

"They admitted having nuclear and chemical weapons programs, but never their germ warfare program, and we're still at the starting gate on that one. This was a program they wanted to keep hidden, and it's difficult to detect. Likewise, laboratories could be almost anywhere. Verification and compliance will be difficult."

To an outsider, looking for Iraqi weapons is like hunting for a needle in a haystack.

But you have to remember that 90 per cent of Iraq's military capability is within 100 km of Baghdad. So when I was there and we started off in the morning, we didn't talk the troops, when we were going, and we could talk off at any time to look at installations. The new team will have the advantage of taking everything we have learned over the last decade.

What timeline do you see on the latest UN mission, and will the Iraqis co-operate?

Here, Sir, the Swedish diplomat who heads the verification group, will meet with the Iraqis on Sept. 30, and then the mission will have to get 45 foreign inspectors in Baghdad as and out of Iraq. If Saddam co-operates fully with the inspection, in 18 months Sir should be able to go to the UN and say, "My 200 experts have found the following and here is my judgment."

But if there is a stumbling block, he will report to the Security Council. And the state members of the Security Council don't leave any illusions as to what will happen if Sir can't provide. "We would think common sense would lead Saddam to co-operate, but when does Saddam use common sense?"

The availability of the UN seems to be the key, along with the date of Saddam.

Sir's mandate is clear, but if the UN can't handle this and the U.S. acts unilaterally, then the UN could become to be an issue. That's why it's important that every nation in the world should be supporting the UN in this.



'Here's where the great grey owls were, but they're all dead'

Ray McKeever has made owls his passion and his work. Some 6,000 injured birds, from across North America have made their way to his Owl Foundation in Winifred, an Ontario village in Potomac, since she and her husband founded it in 1984 years ago. "There are owls here to return to the wild or for breeding if they're unable to survive on their own. This summer, disaster struck in the form of the West Nile virus."

We had 240 owls earlier this year. Last month, we lost all of our northern owls—the great grey, barn owl, hoary owl and northern hawk owl. We lost all our breeding pairs—74 adults and offspring. It's heartbreaking.

To really understand that you have to know something about owls. It takes between five and seven years before our great greys will mate, if they will mate at all. They are not common in the wild, and we do not raise any. We're the only place in North America that can breed great greys.

Our first grey came in 1977, and he was still breeding this year. This spring was the sixth of these 24 years where we actually had five great greys breeding and two more pairs breeding. We started building a 4,000-sq.-ft. release training cage last November. It has 100 ft. long flight lanes and was designed to train young great greys over this winter so they could be released into

their natural habitat in the forest of their own species.

We were going to start to open a bottle of champagne to celebrate when it was finished this August. We had 30 young great greys to put in them, but they all died. It would have been a sight to see them flying in there. Dreams come and dreams go.

This year was the most successful we've had in 24 years and a little thing like the West Nile virus comes and wipes it all out. It's not likely that in my lifetime we will breed great grey again, but if it doesn't matter, we know how to do breeding properly. It only matters that the foundation keeps going.

WHAT PARENTS DON'T KNOW

(OR WON'T ADMIT) Most grown-ups say the kids are OK. Truth is, says SHARON DOYLE O'RIEGER, the adults are in denial.

"WHY DON'T YOU just go out and play?"

Now what kind of mother, or father, would suggest that to their young kids? Good parents, we like, play with their children, or take them to a play group, or sign them up for skating lessons or computer camp or ballet or T-ball. They might even have a tutor to give their toddler a head start. Cooperative parenting? Certainly, many high achieving parents will dole out the super kids. But not all the pressures of parenting are self-imposed. "There's a heightened standard that parents have to meet to be judged adequate," says Kerry Dwyer, a sociologist in the University of Guelph's family relations department. Today's parents are expected to ensure their children's success, to help them achieve physical, academic and emotional fitness. "It's quite different from a generation ago," says Dwyer. "When kids were more often left to do things on their own."

Now family advocates say it's parents who are left to their own devices. "Parents are not supported by the community," says Alex Marshall of Ottawa's Maker Institute of the Family. "We say, 'You had the kids, it's your problem.' Child care? You know, I raised my kids without having my wife go to work." At the same time, families are watched more closely than ever: Spank your child and risk charges of child abuse. Attend your child's school concert and miss an important work meeting. "Spanking has always been a ch-chink tank," says Marshall, "but it may have become much more difficult."

In a new poll, *Maclean's* and our sister publication *Today's Parent* examine how

PARENTS' TOP FIVE WORRY LIST:

Percentages reflect the most important issue facing Canadian parents:

Education	25
Health/health care	12
Safety	8
Drugs	7
Making time for kids	7

IT DOESN'T GET EASIER

Percentages saying disciplining their children is a major source of stress:

Aged 2 to 5	8
Aged 6 to 12	14
Aged 13 to 18	15

SEX AND THE SINGLE TEENAGER

Q: What is the appropriate age for teens to have sex outside marriage? (%)

Age	Quebec	Rest of Canada
16	5	9
18	30	5
17	16	5
15	25	28
14	6	14
Never	11	40

Q: Should your teen be allowed to spend the night together in your home with their sex partner? (%)

	Quebec	Rest of Canada
Acceptable	44	13
Unacceptable	54	84

Canadians are coping with the heavy demands of child rearing. How do they handle discipline? Do they spend time

with kids? Do they spend enough time with them? What's the right age for a teen to have sex? 13? 16? Never? How would they react if their teenager wanted to spend the night with a sexual partner—at home? Put the most just the results are reassuring, and frequently surprising. Who would have predicted a strong consensus for the traditional stay-at-home parent—though not necessarily mom? Or that nearly as many fathers (43 per cent) as mothers (75 per cent) would say they would rather stay home with their children than go to work?

Also, who would have predicted that parents' responses would betray a useful glimpse of what their teens are actually up to out of their sight? Only Quebecers seem to accept that their kids are smoking, drinking, taking drugs and engaging in sex somewhere on the order of the unpeeled evidence (page 26). And if there are problem parents out there, there are few among our poll respondents—by their account, anyway. A whopping 93 per cent give themselves high marks as parents. Strongest parent claim to be "excellent," while 77 per cent confidently agree for a "good" rating.

And where do the questionable kids go? It's always training also come from. Certainly not from our respondents' homes. The majority are convinced their children behave better than others. Surprisingly, that appears strange concern to the children get older. While an awkwardable half of parents think their preteens are above average, the number jumps to a startling 72 per cent for parents with teens. An overstatement, clearly (but, perhaps the



best comes an element of gratitude from parents relieved that they have avoided the dreaded horrors of the teenage years. "We are fortunate," says Kathie Gray, a Leithbridge, Alta., mother of three whose oldest son named 18 "Touch wood—all three of our boys have so far been really good kids. We haven't had any problems with violence or trouble with the law."

In fact, "most kids do behave remarkably well," says University of Guelph professor Gerald Adams. "The myth of the teenage crisis does not fit the majority" but while just one per cent of poll respondents accept that their children are worse behaved than others their age, Adams says numerous studies doing back to the '60s suggest that fewer than 20 per cent of teens are truly troubled.

At the same time, the angst and guilt that concerned parents in the '70s, when the first generation of mother-figures in many respects and certainly more relaxed about sex. "There are two absolutely distinctive parenting styles in this country," notes Alex Gray, chairman of The Strategic Council, which conducted the poll. "There are huge differences in Quebec parents' tolerance of drinking, smoking and sex outside of marriage—even in their own houses. The husbands you see in that culture really does keep late-parenting."

Canada's, renowned as postmaterialist in global war zones, plays a similar role on the home front. While a significant majority take a hard line toward offspring in their attitude at home, most parents prefer a more moderate, even liberal, approach.

In parenting, in politics, Quebecers appear to be distinct from the rest of Canada—more laissez-faire in many respects and certainly more relaxed about sex. "There are two absolutely distinctive parenting styles in this country," notes Alex Gray, chairman of The Strategic Council, which conducted the poll. "There are huge differences in Quebec parents' tolerance of drinking, smoking and sex outside of marriage—even in their own houses. The husbands you see in that culture really does keep late-parenting."

But no matter where they live, Canadians appear to agree on the joys of parenting. An overwhelming majority of respondents—97 per cent—say raising children is a "satisfying" experience. In

'Touch wood'—all three of our boys have so far been really good kids'

KAVIN ERWIN, LETHBRIDGE, ALTA.

fact, a strong sense of self-satisfaction emerges from the poll results. "Despite the frustrations and concerns we read about in the popular press," says Gregg, "Canadians are happy as parents. They recognize there are problems, but they're not hysterical."

Well, maybe not hysterical, but parents in every province are certainly concerned about their children's schooling. Fully 39 per cent put education at the top of their list of "important issues facing Canadian parents"—far ahead of the next greatest concern, health and health care, at 12 per cent. Down the list are such supposedly hot-button issues as child care, drugs, child safety and balancing work and family—all hovering around seven per cent. Violence, the environment and two-work-year parents barely make it onto the parental radar screen.

In follow-up interviews with *Maclean's*, parents offered a host of complaints about public school systems across the country—from large classes to poor discipline and a dearth of programs for students with special needs. In parents' words, outbreaks to education "at every level—pose a real threat to their children's ability to survive in a competitive market place." "If our children aren't educated, what is their future?" asks Erwin. He says one of his sons had to wait a year for a psychological test to diagnose a learning disability. "It could have gotten him help in school sooner, maybe he would have done better," she says. "It's very frustrating as a parent."

Some parents complain that they are



Kevin, Lisa and their three children, standing outdoors near a body of water.

forced to pick up the slack as teachers scramble to keep up with large classes and changes in the curriculum. "Teachers can't cover all the material in the classroom," says Debbie Kavan of Windsor, Ont., whose children are in Grades 16, 7 and 4. "They are under a lot of pressure. It's, 'OK, here's your multiplication tables, do this at home.' I feel I'm doing the teaching."

Education has clearly touched a nerve. But many working parents feel torn in the daily struggle to build a family life while holding down a full-time job. Jackie Burt of Riverview, N.B., is among the two-

thirds of respondents who say that if money were no object—they would stay at home with their children. "If the opportunity had come up, if we could financially, I would have done it," she says of the self-employed businessman who would like to have more time to spend with his 18-year-old son. "My wife used to take a year off, but we found it difficult financially," he says. "In order to survive right now, you have to have two incomes. Obviously, your house life's got to suffer."

Responses such as Burt's are reflected in The 2001 National Parent Life Conflict Study, recently released by Health Canada. The survey of 15,570 male and female workers—in health and education as well as in the private and public sec-

were the people out there who were going to hate him," she says. "I was worried about a hard life for him, but now he's not so much. It's really changing."



'When you work, the children appreciate you more—you're not there all the time'

DEBBIE KAVAN, WINDSOR, ONT.

son—shows that the time crunch has increased significantly over the past 10 years at Canadians put in longer hours on the job. By any measure, parents are stressed. Nearly 59 per cent reported high levels of overload, compared to 47 per cent a decade earlier, with women much more likely than men to say they were dealing with more stress than they could handle. The study—authored by two business professors, Linda Duxbury at Ontario's Carleton University and Chris Higgins at the University of Western Ontario in London—also revealed a noticeable decline in life satisfaction and mental health.

Still, Duxbury suggests that many working parents are being less than careful in taking they'd rather stay home with the kids. "I'd say that's a politically correct response," she says. "If parents felt that strongly, they would do it. We now have pretty good maternity policy and we find people don't even take the year. They go back early." Duxbury, a working mother, acknowledges the financial and career penalties on those who take advantage of parental leave. But she's overstated parents are underplaying the satisfaction

they derive from their careers. Quebec parents, most likely to choose work over staying home, may be more honest, she believes.

As for the 63 per cent of men in the *Maclean's/Today's Parent* poll who said they would prefer to stay home, well, Duxbury is even more dismissive. "Most men don't even take advantage of parental leave—they take vacation when their kids are born," she notes. The problem, argues Duxbury, is that society has yet to adjust to the reality of dual-income families. "Parents are in a hopeless situation," she says. "You can be a horrible parent or a horrible employee."

But many Canadians do manage the daily balancing act that a modern parent

FAMILY MATTERS

- Overall, my kids are happy and we're balanced
- There are a lot more things in our lives that don't fit with me
- I was young
- I have a rough time in my relationship with my kids
- My kids spend too much time watching TV, using the computer or playing video games
- My kids get too much push back
- Parents have the right to spank their child
- My kids don't get enough exercise

Kavan with Jeffrey, now 15, Jennifer, 9, and Jeremy, 13, at Niagara Falls last year.

ing. "It's one of those things you expect to do," says Windsor's Kavan. "I know when my first one was born that I was going to go back to work. I like my job." As a full-time nurse, Kavan had the flexibility to schedule her shifts around her husband's regular business hours, leaving the hours her children spent with her baby-sitter. Kavan even believes that she—and her children—benefit from her time away from home. "I know from maternity leave, staying home, you are a different personality. When you work, you're more organized and the children appreciate you more when you're not there all the time."

Still, parents are devoting more of each day to their children. A study by University of Waterloo professor Jim Zuckerman, filed that between 1986 and 1998, employed parents increased the time they spent with their children by 50 per cent—from 51 to 76 minutes per day—mostly at the expense of their personal needs. "We tend to think of parenting being compromised with both partners working," says Daly. "But in many cases, it's the parent's relationship and leisure time that gets lost in the rush." More parents are stretching the family budget to pay for cleaning services and restaurant meals, so they can focus on their children. In the "mommy wars" of dual-career families, says Daly, "It's not the first order—they get the status—family activities are orchestrated around their needs."

Margie Chastarot, a mother of three school-aged children, blames her separation from her common-law husband at least partly on the fact that they had so little time alone together. "When both parents are working, it's hard on the couple," she says. "We had maybe two weekends a year." Despite the breakup, the Montreal teacher says she and her ex-spouse, conscious to put their children's interests ahead of their own. "They are the centre of our lives," she says. In addition to sharing custody, they frequently take the children on joint outings.

AS FOR THE TRICKY matter of discipline, the traditional "we're used your father goes home" approach is pretty much a relic of the past. Seventy-two per-

OPENING THE CLOSET DOOR

One stop of the Times from the *Maclean's* Today's Parent poll a notable tolerance among Canadian parents for gay and lesbian teens. Asked how they would react "if, at some point in the future, your child had a sexual relationship with a member of the same sex," nearly half the respondents said

they would find it acceptable. At the other side of the spectrum, one-third consider such a relationship "very unacceptable." Basic ally, an activist with the Windsor chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. And finds the positive response surprising and encouraging. "It's really nice to see that when we learned five years ago that her son was gay, 'I'd be really about

'We didn't feel good about spanking. It wasn't constructive. We did it out of anger.'

MAGALI CHOUINARD, MONTREAL

care of poll respondents say they share the responsibility for disciplining their children equally with their partner. In the '50s, father was the disciplinarian," says Minabelli. "Mother said, 'This is what Johnny did today,' and then she'd come out at night." Now discipline is more likely to come from the parent on the scene or the one mother or father—more suited for the role.

Another finding: *gender spanking*. While 49 per cent of respondents (although just 29 per cent in Quebec) say parents have the right to spank their children, only six per cent of parents with children aged two to five say they do it at least once a week, fewer for parents with older kids. Chouinard and her spouse applied the punishment only once or twice when her first daughter misbehaved as a toddler. "We didn't feel good about it," she says. "It wasn't constructive, we did it out of anger." Instead, they now impose time-outs and encourage their children to stop and say to understand why their behavior is unacceptable.

The vast majority of poll respondents use reminding and reasoning to keep their children in line, along with an arsenal of teddy-bear-like coaxing or rewarding good behavior. "There used to be a parenting school that had these as the levels that must be needed," says the *Vancouver Island's* Minabelli. "The current school says those are social beings with hearts, souls and minds—all of which have to be engaged." With teens, parents rely more primarily on reasoning. A recipe for disaster? Not so, says University of Saskatchewan psychologist Margaret McKillop, who says it's consistent with good parenting practices. Maxine Holmes, a Cornwall, P.E.I., nurse, sets no need for rules or curfews for her teenage son and daughter. "It's understood," she says. "I expect good marks. They don't have anything else to do in the house, not a whole lot of choices." They take their responsibility themselves.

Remarkably, few parents say that disci-



Chouinard and (clockwise) Camille, 11, her co-sister, Serge, 16, and Maxine, 8

pline causes much stress, although by numbers grow as the children age. Only eight per cent of respondents with pre-schoolers admit to finding the task difficult. One explanation could be that parents simply aren't doing all the disciplining they should. Burns feels many parents are simply too lax. "I've seen five year-olds who basically run the house. They come in and say, 'I'm not going to let you put a Band-Aid on me,' or 'I'm not going to take my medicine.'" But the parent won't respond and give the child the medicine. We end up showing them that they

have to just give it to them whether they like it or not."

There are many parents with teens—15 per cent—seem to be sweating on these years. "It's hard," says Elizabeth Laif of Wellandport, Ont., a mother of two adolescents. "They're no better or no worse than other teenagers. But you have to live on them all the time—in a loving way." For Laif, who admits she is strict, the difficulty is that other parents impose few realistic limits on their teenagers. "My son thinks it is ridiculous that he has to be home by 11:00," she says, "because no one and no-one can come home at 1 a.m. It makes it tough when some parents don't care."

THEN THERE'S the sex and teens combination. Here's an issue poll respondents are struggling with, even though—or perhaps because—they came of age after the parental nightmare known as the sexual revolution. At a time when increasing numbers of children are experiencing puberty as early as 10, nearly three quarters of parents put the appropriate age for giving steady at 16 or older—if at all



'I expect good marks. They don't have a lot of chores to do in the house.'

MAXINE HOLMES, CORNWALL, P.E.I.

Less than four per cent think sexual relations are appropriate before 16. But, while up in those parents actually oppose premarital sex, parental acceptance—for kids in general, not necessarily their own—reaches 60 per cent by the time the child is 19.

And what if teens want to sleep with their sexual partners at home? The answer is a loud and clear no from 78 per cent of parents. Among the 20 per cent who would allow overnight guests, some may simply be resigned to the inevitable. As Evans explains it, "Some of our friends say, 'We don't really agree with what they are doing, but they are under our roof so at least we know where they are.' And I go, 'Yeah, I kind of agree that,' but I don't know if I would be able to do that."

Evans, 32, says she is "very grateful" her 18-year-old son has not been involved in any serious romantic relationships. She is adamant that teens should wait until at least 18 to get steady. "With right hormones, one thing can lead to another," she says. "They don't have enough life experience to be really smart about the

things that could happen." Not to mention the emotional roller coaster of really caring about someone—and the possibility of "getting your heart broken." Evans speaks from experience. She first went steady when she was 15, an age she now believes to be "absolutely" too young. "I learned from it," she admits. "But if I could go back, would I do it ever again? No. My boyfriend was older than I was. I stopped out of school. 'Oh, I'm in love—this is it.' You think it's the end of the world and you're just not old enough to deal with that kind of stuff."

In Quebec's more tolerant atmosphere, however, 36 per cent of respondents consider sexual relations appropriate by 16—an attitude shared by only seven per cent as other parts of Canada. "I can't decide the best time for my children to fall in love," says Chouinard, who first went steady at 15. "It depends on the person and if they feel they are ready." She believes 12 is really too young for a sexual relationship, although she remembers "kissing and cussing" with a boyfriend at that age. "It wasn't too young," she says. "It was an exploration. I learned what I liked and what I didn't like about boys."

Instead of setting rules, Chouinard believes parents should focus on helping their children build self-esteem. "The work we have to do as parents is to let them know they have the right to say 'I'm

not ready,' she says. "Then they will decide what to do."

WHAT DETERMINES whether a child turns into a loner or a well-balanced adult? Nearly half of the parents in the *Maclean's* Today's Parent poll assume they are the major influence in their child's life. Fewer than one in three believe their child's unique personality and temperament is the prime factor in their development. And only 16 per cent assume that significance to the child's friends. Other possibilities—daycare, babysitters, school, faith, TV and movies—basically register.

In fact, academics are still debating the relative influence of parenting styles, genetics and peers in determining a child's behavior. "The research evidence on the causal connection between parenting and kids' development is not as strong as one may think," says Guelph professor Adams. A child's unique temperament may over-ride the best—and worst—of parenting. "This is what I say to misap a parent who comes to me crying about their kids," he says. "You can't take more credit for your kids' positive outcomes than you can for their negative outcomes." Nor are friends as powerful as many believe. "Peers have an influence, but there is a clear evidence that kids who are able seek each other out. If you have a kid whose friend smokes grass, chances are your kid smokes grass, or wants to, before selecting that friend."

Adams thinks the Quebec respondents, who tend to give more credit to important personality, may be closer to the truth. "They may have more respect for the nature of human beings," he says. "Oh, maybe they are more realistic." But it would be a mistake to assume that families do not make differences, he adds. "Families have an indirect effect through the environment we create for kids at home, at school, as the encouragement and opportunities we provide," says Adams. Yes, parents, peers and others have some influence—but the rest is up to the kids.

For more poll results and coverage visit www.macleans.ca and pick up the October issue of *Today's Parent* magazine for a full on the survey in "What's the matter with kids today?"

A REAL ESTATE BUBBLE?

House prices have soared in recent years. No one's panicking yet, but some ask how long it can last

EARLY LAST WEEK, Elizabeth Cowan called her office "You're rich," she told him. "And now you can be famous." She'd sold his house for him in July and she wanted him to pose for a *Maclean's* photo shoot. The house is gorgeous, sits on the Royal LePage agent's \$500-sq-ft, classic with five bedrooms, two kitchens and a four-car garage, it sits behind iron gates and a stone wall on a secluded street in a sought-after north of Toronto. There's a swimming pool in the middle of the cedar-dome and a saltwater pool out back. Cowan helped her client buy the property two and a half years ago for \$1.3 million. In July, it sold for \$2.7 million, earning him a cool \$1.4 million. But he turned her down.

as the photo "Just costs," he said, worrying he'd get too many calls from realtors. Not to mention, in his case, scrutiny from Revenue Canada.

Black down to earth, where more than most, much the same thing is happening. Real estate prices are rising in virtually every property category, almost everywhere in Canada—perhaps not to such dizzy heights, but still enough to make sellers feel wealthy and buyers nervous. Some fear that a new bubble, reminiscent of the late 1980s, is building, and could soon burst. Others are more stable. The likelihood of a crash is low, for instance, began seeing multiple bids on properties

in 2000, which previously was unheard of, says Bob Ellis, a Realtor agent. While the market cooled some in 2003, it remained surprisingly unaffected by the tech meltdown. This year, he says, it's "back to being an anomaly."

In Montreal, the city seemingly forever beleaguered by referendum-induced aches and pains, the price for a townhouse is almost double, in pocket, what it was a year ago. (But for Edouard for years the poor cousin to Calgary, it has risen on some half of its own, and prices in some areas have risen 30 and 40 per cent in the past two years.) In Canadian real estate circles, it's most of the same. Vancouver, where prices are still the highest in the country—due in part to the rapid influx of Asian money in the 1980s and early '90s—is again seeing an overall increase in values, following a curious dip four years ago. Toronto's prices have—finally, for some homeowners—climbed past the peak set in October of 1999/2000.

Over the summer, prices levelled off a bit in most markets, says Sherry Chitt, a



FIVE BOOMING YEARS

Average sales price for active listings, Brierley Real Estate/House (in thousands of dollars)



*Source: National Real Estate Board (NREB), National Real Estate Board (NREB)

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been created yet, and the only Canadian on the Plains of Abraham that day spoke French.

The Plains of Abraham. It sounds Biblical, evoking images of a child to be sacrificed and a god appeased, but the name itself actually refers to a Québec farmer who had once owned land on the heights in the 1600s. Undulating earth mounds and forested lanes have transformed the battlefield into a rolling landscape, gentle and green. It's a place for family picnics and summer strolls. Residential streets have a veiled a glacial on the northern half of the Plains as well, further reducing the site.

I have come here, on the anniversary of the original battle, to walk the field and try to map out the memory of what has happened here. Using a battle plan and a city map, I have managed to project the past onto the present, and I piece it out, starting with the monument to Gen. Wolfe, marking the spot where it is believed the then, teenage young Englishman died. Whenever separation means war, this is the first moment they blew up. It was, word and bullet, in the middle of a small traffic circle.

From the Wolfe Monument, if you walk north to the Grande Allée and turn right, you will soon come to Avenue Cartier, with its tiny crescent shops and small cafés. This is where the British soldiers stood, mules loaded the piles. If you look straight down Cartier, past the war bar and the private stand, you are looking across the British front lines. Continuing up the Grande Allée at a quickening pace, you are now ahead of the valley. This is where the bullets would have been flying, where the cloud of acrid smoke would have rolled across the dead and dying. Do you smell? Of the taste of blood, the scent of gunpowder and glory?

Running now, past the Baptist church to rue Salaberry and you have crossed over to the French side. This is where the great surge forward would have failed, it is where the French advance was broken. Move along Grande Allée and you are picking your way around corpses, you are walking among ghosts. Between Avenue Cartier and rue Salaberry lies one of the great chasms of Canadian history, the central fault line upon which our country is built.

The sentiment is there, just below the surface. 'Didn't we beat them on the Plains of Abraham?' Well, no. We didn't beat anyone, because 'we' didn't exist.

EARLY EVENING Dark has fallen so abruptly as dusk. The day has had wind, and the smelch of battle has long since faded. I'm not really sure why I'm here, in the Lower Town, boarding a ferry to Lévis. The sky is the colour of a deep bruise and the clouds are heavy with rain. There is a cold chill coming off the St. Lawrence as the ferry crosses over.

It's been a long time since I've been 19. I'm married now. I have a lovely wife and two wonderful children. So I'm not really sure what I hope to find here or why I am seeking out the landmarks of my own childhood as a tourist of Quebec.

Perhaps it is simply nostalgia. Or perhaps curiosity. I want to know if I can still find my way there in the dark. Out of the ferry and to the right, past the warehouses and three up the long stair to the top of the cliff. Left down the first lane and right on the next. Third door up, second window from the left. Perhaps I am hoping to run into one of my former school mates along the way. Or perhaps, a glimpse of a girl once of me, disappearing around a corner as I smile my way up the stairs.

I stop, halfway up and out of breath, and look back across the St. Lawrence to the darkening hills onto of Quebec's skyline, a shimmer of lights, a gentle glow. And when I finally do reach the top, nothing is quite as familiar as I had hoped. It takes me almost an hour, retracing one side street and then the next, to find the doorway and the window a square of light, warm against the night.

I want to throw a small stone against the pane and see who peeks out from inside, but I don't. The last ferry crossing took and I have to go. I have a cliff to descend and a boat to catch. And yet, even now, after all these years, I remember it so clearly. **W**

Will Ferguson is the author of *Asheville & Jerusalem*, which is set in a small town in Montana and Wolfe. willferguson.com/canada

Column | ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM



FOR ONCE HE'S RIGHT

Jean Chrétien gets proof positive that the developing world resents our riches

IN POLITICS, to succeed it is supposedly necessary to be highly astute (I hope not expensive). Guy Hury Lang said, "There may be smarter politicians than me, but they don't live in Louisiana." He was assuaged by a clever medical doctor who was anxiously tilted by Lang's bodyguards. Hard work is apparently necessary on the road to the top, but the best, family-surpassing intelligence and hard work is the ephemeral quality that no one can define. Luck.

It is a neat trick—being being the truth. I remember of all that Jean Chrétien in his fading laurels has been given the proof of the very point he was trying to make about Sept. 11. This occasion, as we well know, thanks the PM's ally, scandalous act of screaming. Paul Martin with the intense drawn out retirement search his well-defined, senior-brother youth in an isolated Quebec and some where such were the facilities that he wanted of 19 children, only one of whom survived safely.

Given that, he has without any assistance to his own children—because the last time he ministered in the history of this young country. There were always early leaders involving Sir John A. and Laurier, the one on the bank, the other the Québec house. Chrétien has sought to emulate MacKenzie King had formidable successful opponents in Bennett and Meighen. Lesser figures were humbled everything in the Commons by the former of them. But the Chief—who was not elected by campaigning on a single theme that Renaissance Minister C.D. Howe once said, "What's a million dollars?" (Sounding Howe over said.)

J. Chrétien, the Québec politician ever born in Canada, walks into Quebec's Parliament every day, and the look of gloom on his lips is palpable as he goes two sword lengths across the carpet from English parliamentary tradition when you had to keep the adversarial spirit at what is laughingly called the Opposition. Seated

next to them is the previous Opposition, the current Bill-Quebec and by some one known only for his televised humor. The NDP, for a dozen years now, has been led by sincere warriors who are known only by the smiling person photos in post offices.

The Conservatives, the party of Sir John A., were the fifth party in Ottawa when the last election, thanks to the incredible ego of Joe Clark who refused to Vote the Right, choosing—so it disillusioned people do—that he can sleep in his own bed back again in 24 hours. And the Reform/Alliance/Pro. Party, led by an unlovable man who thinks the solution is Stupidity Day's Banishment, at a solemn silence, and then explain to the press why he is remaining silent.

To come J. Chrétien's moment in the Commons, his comments—recorded by the CBC in July and released on Sept. 11—show we had been all dark about the disparity between our World and the Third World which we mourn those who die in the Twin Towers. The apocalyptic religious press recently met, because London's Sunday Telegraph broadcast its survey—"Mr. Chrétien and the dawn's darkness." The First Street sheet (quite accurate) is owned by one Lord Black of Cross-Dressing, who led his Canadian fellow because the easy PM wouldn't allow him to finance in robes under a Canadian passport. Rich, powerful, silly boys.

But back to everything. Just as history's longest-lasting prime minister is fading

into the woodwork, along comes the evidence that he was phoning as—stated into him in his recent travels in Africa. We have the lovely example of Enron, whose boss—Ken Lay—died from the TV camera to declare, "It's gone. There is nothing left." And our own James Robertson, last of his career as an Edmonton bodyguard, who comes in a mansion in the Deep South among the incredible ornamental chairs upon the unbelievable last and great in WorldCom. Not to mention Dennis Kucinich, now charged as CEO of Tyco International Inc. for looting from the company US\$400 million—including a \$6,000 shower curtain and a \$1 million birthday party for his wife in Baltimore that included an sex strike of Mollweig's David with vodka spurring from his shirt, a chocolate.

Such a Christopher great lack—the reminder of his career—that the vast criticism of his very sensible comments on the delayed CBC tapes, heavily repeated as the United Nations summit address (to a half-jenny client), and about of his these come in the next year. Forget such daydreams as Billions, Billions, Lay and a dozen others, we now have the remarkable confession of Jack Welch, the supreme exemplar of capitalism, that he had designated to replace the "CEO of the century."

Jack, the greatest businessman who ever lived, nearly too smart about one thing. His reply: When the editor of the Harvard Business Review, one Gary Hamel, interviewed him as his last day, he unfortunately fell into bed with his wife. Welch, undoubtedly disturbed, revealed that bubble worth US\$100 million, had in his General Electric retirement been given a \$15 million Alaskan apartment, plus laundry bills, wine, restaurant meals, travel as the company jet, even newspapers, opera tickets, VIP seats for the Yankees, the Royals, Wimbledon, and country club memberships. A moment Jack Welch has announced he will retire and pay for the real goods, such as the papers delivered to his door each morning and the French wine.

Such is done, Cheeser, for once, was right. **W**

Allan Fotheringham appears every other week. allan@profitmag.com

A WAY TO REMEMBER

Activists work to save wooden grain elevators

AFTER WORKING in Calgary for several years, Nancy Pinfold decided she wanted to live in a smaller centre. In 1998, she went on a driving tour of nearby towns and ended up spending the night in a campground in Nazston, 75 km south of Calgary. She woke with a clear view of a trio of brightly coloured wooden grain elevators, erected in 1929 and 1939. "I was hooked," recalls Pinfold, who bought a house and moved to the community of 1,900. Soon, however, there was talk of tearing the elevators down. She helped found a local preservation society which convinced Pioneer Grain Company, Ltd., owner of the abandoned elevators, to sell the buildings to the group for a token \$1.

Obstacles remain, most notably finding the \$200,000 or so needed to convert the elevators into a museum and archives. Still, Nazston stands as a rare success story in the fight to preserve what was once the most striking visual symbol of prairie life. The number of wooden grain elevators in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta peaked at more than 5,000 in the mid-20th century. Today, fewer than 500 remain as they're being demolished and replaced by fewer, but much larger, concrete and steel structures that can hold four times as many rail cars in a day.

Groups like Pinfold's, though, are determined that the old landmarks not fade away entirely. Earlier this year they formed the Alberta Grain Elevator Society, with the goal of preserving as many of the province's remaining 200 odd wooden elevators as possible. Last week, High River, Alta., history buff Dennis Murphy took the issue to a new level, poaching 33 m high atop the local elevator for 23 hours a day in a money-raising effort to save the 63-year-old structure. For Pinfold, the act demonstrates an important message: "You'll never know how far you've come unless you save some of where you've been." ■



Clockwise from top left: Fox Valley, Sask.; Alliance, Alta., where seven wooden elevators once stood; the last functioning elevator in Rosedale, Alta.; Melville, Sask., now a ghost town; Delta, Alta., where the white building has since been burned down.



BIOTECH HOPE AND HYPE

The genetics revolution has failed to deliver, says **STEPHEN LEAHY**

COME TO CANADA. We have lovely scenery, low crime, industry-friendly regulations and low corporate taxes. That, in essence, was the sales pitch industry Minister Allan Rock gave the 15,565 biotechnicians from 54 countries attending the world's largest biotechnology industry conference at Toronto last summer. And if that wasn't enticement enough, Rock announced \$300 million in new funding for biotech start-ups as well as Ontario's \$51 million in new funding initiatives.

Federal and provincial governments have long had a love affair with genetics, pumping billions into the biotech business since the early 1970s. And who wouldn't love a new technology that promises to feed the hungry, cure intractable diseases, clean up the environment and, thanks to patent rights, usher in the Golden and Platinoid Ages of Biotechnology?

So, 30 years later and how much breakthrough products has biotech produced? Genetic therapy may actually have harmed more people than it's helped. Carelessly engineered (GE) crops have cut yields of hard-pressed farmers, eroded the quality of our food or fed the hungry. The few drugs derived from GE such as insulin simply replace costly products while eroding new jobs. And Canadian farmers remain nervous about the technology.

With good reason. The industry consistently overpitches the benefits and downplays the potential risks of a revolutionary new technology. Genetic engineering is revolutionary because its products incorporate genes from unrelated species. The process of eukaryotic and prokaryotic plant and animal breeding is an accretion, only with (and without) alleles—a virtual gene exchange. The between-species aspect of biotechnology, a horizontal gene exchange, is a whole new ball game.

Only through GE can a gene from a soil bacterium that makes a toxin become part of a corn plant's DNA. Now this exchange is not easily done. Toss a DNA package

into a bush that contains the toxin-producing bacterial gene as well as elements known as promoters and vectors of bacterial viruses, antibiotic-resistant marker genes and other assorted bits of DNA. These packages are "plunged" into thousands of tiny metal pellets and blasted into corn plant cells with a device called a gene gun. A few will be the right place, and the bacterial virus promoters and vectors will stitch the foreign gene into the corn's DNA. The process will produce many fruitless, nonfunctional plants. The odd corn plant will produce the bacterial toxin in every cell. Known as Bt corn, it kills any moth or butterfly larvae that nibble on it.

One major reason to proceed with caution on biotech innovation: the potential moral attitude in an industry where even the biggest players concede that many vital questions remain unanswered. "My view of biotech is, we don't know how," the U.S. president Craig Venter said a magazine, *Wired*. Yet the company he founded is heralded as successful decoders of the human genome (the total DNA package) two years ago as a key step in ushering in the Biotech Age. It discovered—surprise!—that the human genome contains just 35,000 genes instead of the expected 100,000. So, rather than performing single duties, genes appear to multitask and work in combination with other genes. In other words, pluck a gene from an organism because it performs one desired function, plug it in another organism—and who knows what unexpected business it will get up to. Besides, genes are just a small part of DNA.

Biotech critics like geneticist David

Saxena say it's much too soon to have placed GE crops and used them in food and drugs. "Scientists just don't know enough about the technology right now," argues Saxena. Not surprisingly, the biotech business says it's high time to move forward. "People don't realize that biotechnology is starting to manifest the world," says Janet Lambert, president of the industry trade association, BIOFACCanada. "It is too soon to feed the starving in Africa!"

Canada's first GE crops were planted in 1996. Three patented soybean—canola, corn and soy—are now found in 60 to 70 per cent of our food. Yet they don't improve food quality or boost yields substantially—at least, critics argue both quality and yield are poorer. The main reason farmers plant something like Monsanto's Round Up Ready canola is that it offers them the convenience of using a single herbicide—made by Monsanto, easily to control weeds, rather than a whole bunch, but the pay is still not so as whether GE farmers actually spray less.

The consumers are also iffy. Although GE seeds cost more than the seeds they replace, some farmers, nearly those with large operations, make a couple more dollars per acre using them. Despite, however, its export banality hurt. First it was the loss of export markets for formerly GE-free crops in U.S.-style Europe. Now, because GE plants are living organisms that reproduce, disperse and evolve, their genetic pollution and contamination. Thanks to winds and insects, engineered genes are travelling long distances in pollen and seeds, ending up in non-GE crops and the foodies.

Given those concerns, it's not surprising there was an uproar in France from consumers last year when Agriculture Canada announced that Monsanto's GE wheat will be submitted to regulation for approval this fall. While the company wants to make as much as \$7 billion from that crop, a University of Saskatchewan study showed Canadian farmers would



end up losing \$30 million a year through lost sales. Monsanto says it is sensitive to the contamination concerns. "We are not going to sell it," says an company spokesperson. Josh Jordan, "until a segregation system is in place to keep it separate from non-GE wheat."

Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of North Americans are eating foods made from GE crops without any documented ill effects. But then, how could we do more than just eat them without data on who is eating those foods and in what quantities? That would require food labelling and a tracking system for GE crops. But while the vast majority of Canadians want foods with GE ingredients to be labelled, that's not going to happen. The reason would spell the end of agricultural biotech food production should they'd learn on GE-free crops from farmers because if people could easily identify GE foods, some, perhaps many, wouldn't buy them.

After global change, as one industry's

major economic and social problem. But the GE crops that the large multinational corporations have brought to developing countries to farm—corn, cotton and soy—all engineered to resist herbicides, and all affordable only by large commercial farmers. If biotechologists really want to feed the poor, says Sanku Palanisamy of the United Nations Development Program, they need to create virus resistance, drought tolerance, nutrient-enhanced versions of such staple crops as millet, sorghum and cassava. "Of course," he adds, "farmers living on less than a dollar a day don't represent much of a market."

Perhaps that's why fewer companies are now involved in "green" (agricultural) biotech and many more in "red" (and red/white) biotech. With one blockbuster health product capable of bringing in billions in revenue, the big drug companies are quickly transitioning into biopharmaceutical corporations. They, say, they like 100 medical products derived

from genetic engineering. Thousands more are being used.

The first, and likely the most profitable, GE product is "human derived" insulin. Approved for use in Canada in 1982, it rapidly replaced the more expensive insulin traditionally made from the pancreas of cows and pigs. It also produced biotech's first human casualties.

Hundreds of Canadian diabetics have reported reactions to GE insulins, says Vancouver health policy expert Colleen Fuller, spokesperson for Society for Diabetic Rights. Using access-to-information laws, that new group has associated the deaths of eight Canadians with use of synthetic insulin as of January, 2001. Father, a diabetic who has reacted badly to U.S. insulin, has also heard from more than 400 people complaining of bad responses to the medication. Hundreds of deaths and thousands of unwanted side effects have also been noted in the U.S., Britain and elsewhere. Problems clear up quickly

Genetic research reveals about making money, not caring people, says Oliver

when diabetes seems to be an inherited trait, says Heller. What really makes her angry, however, is that she and thousands like her have paid a high price to obtain medicines that could make more money.

The financial success of GE insulin and another multi-billion dollar product, GE erythropoietin (EPO), an anti-anemia drug made by placing a human gene in the ovarian cells of a Chinese hamster, prompted the production of "bioethics." The term refers to ethics, plants and animals engineered to produce human proteins of all kinds. Wisconsin dairy cows produce a blood-clotting agent called fibrinogen in their milk. Shag, rabbits, goats and even mice make human proteins in their milk. While the mammary gland is the biotechnology of choice, TGN Sciences of Quebec City produces complex proteins in pig ovaries.

Plans for the human-biotech before 2000 were the product of manufacturing, not as a fraction of the traditional one. Molecular farmers at Midway Inc. of Sainte-Foy, Que., have genetically engineered animals to produce human biotechnology proteins for blood transfusions. Tobacco fields outside London, Ont., produce Interferon-10, a human immune-system modulator, for treating. Ciba's disease in the U.S. has been experimental fields of corn containing an insect and virus-killing antibodies, an HIV protein for a future vaccine, and an enzyme that may help cure chronic pancreatitis (digest food).

While some of these products are in general use yet, none are in human trials. Critics worry about the possibility of contamination of other crops or the altered genes getting into food. Joe Converse, a senior University of Wisconsin Oshkosh professor, is concerned about the effects human proteins may have on bugs and micro-organisms in the soil and water. There is a danger, he says, that by accepting all human proteins, a common will result could be a health threat.

Gene therapy is a more direct route to solving medical problems—introducing copied genes straight into human



Foods with GE ingredients won't be labelled—that would spell the end of agricultural biotech

cells. While billions of dollars have been invested and some 3,500 clinical trials conducted worldwide since 1990, there have been few cases of cure. But there are several risks. In 1994, 18-year-old Jesse Gelsinger died while undergoing gene therapy at the University of Pennsylvania. Researchers have now reported thousands of adverse reactions among patients in gene therapy trials, 691 in the U.S. alone. In Canada, where more than 300 human trials have been approved, one man, James Dow, died while undergoing gene therapy for a brain tumour. There is one case.

The heart of the problem with gene therapy and genomic medicine in general is the complexity of the human body. Single gene diseases, the kind most likely to be treatable by gene therapy, are very rare. And nearly all ailments, including cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, are the result of many factors. Lifestyle, diet, exposure to toxins, stress, hygiene and, yes, genes. The current focus

and fascination with genes produces a fix: immortality toward disease and health, rather than a better management of the conditions that create disease.

Currently 99 per cent of genomic research is about making money, not caring people, says Dr. Nancy Oliver, head of the bioethics and ethics unit at the University of Toronto. In 1994, 18-year-old Jesse Gelsinger died while undergoing gene therapy at the University of Pennsylvania. Researchers have now reported thousands of adverse reactions among patients in gene therapy trials, 691 in the U.S. alone. In Canada, where more than 300 human trials have been approved, one man, James Dow, died while undergoing gene therapy for a brain tumour. There is one case.

The current passion for all things genetic has blinded many to biotech's risks and limitations. The head of the Canadian biotech industry to pump billions into the industry where only a small number of companies have ever made a profit. Last year, the publicly traded firm netted a collective loss of \$784 million. Perhaps, in the end, genetics is a numbers game. Canadian biotech has 17,000 new products in the pipeline. Undoubtedly some will show substantial profits and benefit some people. But at what cost, and at what risk to the public and the planet? ■

Stephen Leary is a bioethicist, first, and then a senior copy in biotechnology and the environment.

Over to You | SYLVIA HUNTER



THE BABY BAN

Ottawa would turn me into a criminal just because I paid for a woman's eggs

WHEN YOU IMAGINE a person who would pay someone to donate her reproductive eggs, you perhaps picture a 40-something, career-onset professional who would too long to start a family. Or maybe a rich, eccentric couple who want to build a better baby using someone else's more attractive genes. But in my case, you'd be wrong. I'm 26, I got married at 23 and we started trying for a baby a month later. We live in a tiny apartment and drive an 11-year-old car. And, yes, we used an egg donor. Why? Because before I turned 24, I had lost both my ovaries to cancer—but we still wanted children.

An in-vitro fertilization clinic and a woman who was willing to go through six and months' worth of fertility drugs, daily blood tests, and surgical egg retrieval helped us make the baby we started trying to conceive almost five years ago. The result was the baby person was mainly the same as for couples who use their own gametes or donor sperm: the success rates are mirrored, eggs and sperm get together in a petri dish, and the resulting embryos are transferred into the woman's uterus. You're the lucky one of them. I'm glad. We were lucky indeed we made a baby in our second try, before the money ran out. One of the smaller charges on our account from the clinic—nearly \$16,000 for that second cycle—was the \$1,500 compensation we paid to the egg donor.

Now that the Federal Act Regulating Assisted Human Reproduction (the AHR Act)—introduced in Parliament in May, when I was in my pregnant—seems to close to becoming law, we're very thankful we decided to go ahead with Operation Baby. Since the AHR Act would—by the way—prohibit "paying a donor for their sperm or eggs," what we've just done may now be illegal. Instead, of course, people like us will have to find donors themselves (through U.S. clinics or on the Internet),

pay them under the table, proceed to their doctor that the donor is a relative or friend, and hope for the best. Was this really the aim of the Act?

Regulating assisted reproduction seems like an excellent idea. Health Canada is right to try to prevent exploitation, right to give donor-conceived children access to their medical histories, and right to create an agency to license and regulate those who make use of these technologies. But prohibiting alcohol in the 1920s didn't stop people from making it, selling it or drinking it, and prohibiting ethnic couples from compensating someone who donates an ovum or sperm, or agrees to carry a child, is not going to make the practice stop. Forget building walls on a U.S.-style reproductive open market—don't it seems better to ask someone to take months out of her life, to undergo invasive procedures and even a while pregnancy for the good of other people, without any compensation beyond "most polite medical advice?" Not all of us have a willing and able sister, cousin or best friend to volunteer.



Does that mean we shouldn't be allowed to have babies?

We don't plan to control from our child that her genes come from someone other than Mommy (my mom suggests we refer to her as the "egg mommy"), we don't know the donor's identity, but we have access to a family medical history through the clinic, should we ever need to know. We will face tougher challenges in explaining to our child how she came to be, but that will never be in any doubt that she was planned, wanted and deeply loved.

It's easy for people whose children were conceived naturally to decide that certain high-tech baby-making methods are innocent or unethical. It's easy, when you don't know much about the techniques, to think of them as "cloning life." And if you think that all of us who used a paid donor instead of a friend or relative in fact had a choice, it's easy not to see the huge obstacles represented by a ban on donor compensation. Yes, I had ovarian cancer, but the techniques for making use of it may still be years in the future. Yes, we want to adopt a child someday, but it's going to take us a long time to find the money for that venture. In the meantime, do we feel exploited? Heck, no! After so many years of feeling that my body had betrayed me, this pregnancy made me feel healthy and whole again. Does my donor feel exploited? Since this was her first donation, I suspect not.

On Aug. 4, our daughter, Sharna, was born. I was in labour for a long time, but it all went well and Sharna is, of course, absolutely perfect. Twenty weeks of anticipation, finally, filled to prepare me for how overwhelmingly I would love her the moment she was born. If we could meet our donor, we would thank her again and again for making our dreams come true. No amount of money could ever buy what she's given us, what we've always thought of as a gift, not a purchase. Our families are thrilled, knowing what we went through to become parents, we all did ourselves almost forgetting that, yes, she can't really have inherited any genes.

The next time you read a news story about the risks of "commercial" genetic screening, think of us. Do we sound like criminals to you? ■

Sylvia Hunter calls scholarly journals in Toronto. To contact her, email: shunter@shaw.ca



OUR CHAMELEON SCREEN

New Canadian features come in an array of exotic colours—or a shroud of silence



WHAT DO THESE characters have in common—in American parlance, an Eng-Dib schizophonia, as Tati Sadi in *Amor*, a Las Vegas sex therapist, an Applehead script handler, a Tokyo schismologist, a Romanian dog whisperer, a Chinese child rapist, and an American barman in 19th century Paris?

They're all characters in this fall's night-dream-known-as-Canada's national cinema. Each year the Toronto International Film Festival launches the new season of homegrown movies—23 features by Canadian directors were showcased at the event's 37th annual edition (Sept. 5-14). Anyone trying to get a fix on our cultural landscape through the festival lens would see a kaleidoscope of nationalities, from the artiest of Hollywood/Hollywood to the American riddle of *Amor*. But many of the films are rooted in immigrant culture or foreign lands who make place-as-a-kind-of-vicarious, a country defined by a basic failure to communicate.

Out is a cinema of veiled silences. We have movies that breathe emotional spirit as they exhale the past (*Amor*, *Spider*, *Flower of Gomer*, *Just Before*,

Glowing performances by McGregor and Roberts help make *Flower & Gomer* a gem.

Perfect Mr. Mirror *Order*, *La Tardive* *der flucht*). We have movies that search for meaning in the margins, an evocation of junkies, pornographers, massage parlours, twin male shoppers and topless female boxers (*Pin*, *The Wild Days*, *Howling*, *Red & Tag*, *Paradise*). And, in the great Canadian tradition, we have movies that point down the road to oblivion (*Gembling*, *God and Us*, *William*, *Deadwood*).

Which is not to say these aren't some fine Canadian films in the current crop. *Spider*, which deservedly won the festival's prize for best Canadian feature, is a slow but exquisite psychological drama that shows a new maturity from director David

We search for meaning on the margins, a world of junkies, pornographers, massage parlours, topless female boxers

Conenberg. Embodying some of the special effects or shock tactics he's famous for, Conenberg spins a web of Oedipal intrigue, drawing uneasy performances from Ralph Fiennes as a paediatric schismologist and Miranda Richardson as a shape-shifting mother from his boyhood.

Spider and *Amor*, which had both premiered at Cannes, were the two most prominent Canadian features at the Toronto festival. But in the spotlight of the opening night gala, *Amor* drew a more mixed response. Aaron Egozi's score of contemporary dance music overlooking the legacy of the 1915 Armenian genocide presents a fascinating racial puzzle. And his audacious attempt to fuse historical, symbolic and personal agendas is highly admirable. However, while so many of the year's Canadian films are afflicted by a kind of narrative anorexia, *Amor* suffers from too much plot rather than too little. Its father-like muse of age-rythm becomes so contempt, and so volitional, that the drama tends to get lost in the dust of deconstruction.

Among the smaller movies, the one gem that lacks both heavy and *Flower of Gomer*, a remarkably nuanced feature debut by Vancouver writer-director Ruth Behar. Filmed against a human landscape in the B.C. interior, it's a film but powerful array of a depressed widower (Colin Keith Rowland) who has come to resent his children, a blossoming 16-year-old named *Flower* (Jana McGreggor) and a cautious eight-year-old named *Gomer* (Celine Roberts)—their mother died during *Gomer's* birth. It sounds bleak. But Behar's intimate director breathes life into every frame. His images have an evocative sense of wonder, as if seen through a child's eyes. As the broken-down father, Rowland gives the most mature and vulnerable performance of his career. And the kids are something—McGreggor seems poised to join Canada's legions of young female stars, behind Sarah Polley and Laura Taleban.

Paradise, Vancouver filmmaker Guy Bennett's feature debut, is a psychological drama of a teenage daughter (Sara Bennett) and a widowed dad (Michael Riley). Their easy relationship is not physically intimate, but it thunders to be when she asks her father, a physician, to give her a breast exam. This is a movie with



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Scenes from *Splinter* (with Richardson applying *Splinter*) and *André* (with *André*)

orio far contacts than one suspended in a personified ether between two coasts. And thus in searching auras about a Milla, who sees himself as a mostly linguistic professor, never guesses can resist literary with Jarkov, despite her finer efforts. It's better when they're lying awake, and Milla's then their emotional horror with well-observed detail. But maybe that's the point. Maybe this is Canada's strongest tribute to Hollywood formula, a severe stance about a couple falling out of love.

Part *Perfect* is also about the imperfection of a children's future—a theme that surfaces again in *Perfect Pie*, another first feature that sees back and forth between two time frames. It's about a reunion between two women in rural Ontario, a mother (Wendy Crewson) who has stayed on the family farm, and an open star (Barbara Williams) who lives in New York, single and childless. The story takes back to their youth, gradually uncovering a trauma that has left them both scarred for life. Directed by Barbara Willis Sweete, Crewson and Williams give full-bodied performances, but the story that surrounds them feels strange. The script, adapted by Jack Thompson from her own play, unfolds as a therapeutic exercise in observed memory. One more trip down the beaten path in suburban



leaves on the brain-ster the golden daughter gives *André's* new girlfriend a black eye, the girlfriend's sister, who makes her living as a telephone operator, tries to write the scene. If you think that's weak, it's only the fact of a Santa Bernier, who performs graphic male violence, is the director's choice. And the director says that while his script isn't autobiographical, it's a projection of what "my daughter and I might have become had we not made numerous mistakes in our relationship." Where

Marianne Andrieu, another drama with innocent overtones, won the festival's prize for best Canadian feature debut. Set in Cape Breton, it's the tale of an aging mother and her two fading daughters, superbly played by Milla Jarkov, Rebecca Jarkov and Sissy Smith. German-Canadian filmmaker Wiebke von

Carollid damn with a ironic hand. And the film arrives as a good vehicle for everyone involved, especially Jarkov, who gets to play an alcoholic both on and off the wagon. But the story feels as dead-end as the family's faded emotions. It's a shame to see such strong performances lavished on such cruel themes, and after a while you find yourself simply wishing the actor's work.

Academy-prize Daniel Machev, who scripted *Marianne Andrieu*, also wrote and directed his own feature debut, *Part Perfect*, a simple two-hander in which he co-stars with Rebecca Jarkov. A sleekly elegant construction, *Part Perfect* tangles between two time frames—sisters who finally fall in love on a mid-eye flight from Halifax to Vancouver, and their relationship flourishing two years later. It's hard to imagine a more Canadian sce-

Among other departures from the delirium of Canadian cinema, Hollywood's *The Last Days of Patton* (Warner) and directed by Ridley Scott's *Canadian Deepa Mehta* (Fox), it's a madcap musical about a young filmmaker who has an

The 27th Toronto International Film Festival has now come to a close. But in hundreds of thousands of hearts and minds, the film will continue to play on and on. Perhaps for a while. Perhaps forever.

Since its debut in 1976 as a collection of films from other festivals, the Toronto International Film Festival has been to enhance grow from a devoted group of movie fans to a virtual Who's Who of the international film community, represented by the year's superlative master of dialogue, industry professionals, film critics, and most important of all, film lovers. Yet through it all, the festival and other programmers that make up the rest of the festival organization that is the Toronto International Film Festival Group, have remained committed to our principal objectives: to nurture audiences by celebrating the moving image, and the unique power it has on some people, inspire them, and ultimately, even transform them.

But while the festival may be the most familiar of our achievements, we're just as passionate about the growing number of ways that we encourage more software kinds of audiences to wholeheartedly participate in the personally enriching, culturally essential experience of film.

During the Festival, our Dialogue programme features intimate screenings, hosted by a slate of international directors, who share their own transformational film experiences and invite audiences to do the same. For the film industry, *Masterclasses* allows established pros to share their passionate insight into the filmmaking process with

emerging talent. And in the DOLBY Cinema begins a new series of delightful Sunday morning sneak previews, where audiences enjoy a film whose tale is revealed only moments before the lights dim, followed by a provocative discussion between critics, filmmakers and critics.

The Film Circuit is an award-winning program that connects our cinema Canadian, international, and independently financed film to 50 Canadian communities and growing. And each spring, the *Splinter* Toronto International Film Festival For Children serves up the festival spirit to child-size patrons, with award-winning children's films, interactive activities for children and families, and even a great award programme provided over by the children themselves.

But because film is also an art, it brings with it a large audience that wants to go even deeper into the movies. That's why, *Masterclasses* Ontario screens more than 200 critical films, including landmarked authors with international acclaim and over in a lifetime retrospective. And for the hopefully affected, *The Film Reference Library*, Canada's largest source for English language film information, houses over 100,000 books, films, posters, scripts, soundtracks and props.

As you can see, there's a lot more to us than a couple of weeks, a dozen weeks in September. Including a depth of wonderful volunteers, without whom the curtains would never even open. But as the months and years to come, you'll see a whole new group of visitors from us that will herald a

richer future for film lovers of every age and interest. From playing an active role in choosing young people, to offering expanded masterclasses to film professionals, and exploring new partnerships that will help us broaden the reach of our programming. All the things that film is so well — inspire, teach, and share — we'll try to do, too.

Why are we doing this? Because film matters. To people. To nations. To cultures. To memories. To history. To art. But most importantly, to the human spirit. And to ability to be moved, inspired, enlightened — and transformed. For in instant, or hours, or even a lifetime, anything that can do this, and rally people from around the globe to across the ocean to share in it, together, should be cherished.

So let there be film. Let every movie be a chance to create new worlds, and gain a few understandings for children. Let a million film frames spread through the light of a projector and straight into your heart. Maybe one of them will say there's just enough in change has you see the world.

"The most beautiful thing I have seen in a movie theater," the director François Truffaut once said, "is to go down to the front, and turn around, and look at all the spotlight faces, the lights from the screen reflected upon them all."

May yours be there among them.



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Books | BY BRIAN BETHUNE



TWO WRITERS WHO RAISE THE DEAD

Wayne Johnston and Katherine Govier go beyond facts to get at historical truth

FROM SANDFORD FLEMING, the creator of standard time, to Henry "Blondy" Bayfield, survivor memoirist, the practical arbiters of modern Canada are getting the attention once lavished on assassins and spies. One'll notice, then, that some of the books about them are non-fiction and some are novels. Most historians, at least on fact, would emphatically agree that it does matter. So too would novelist Wayne Johnston and Katherine Govier, but for reasons diametrically opposed to the historical.

In *The Navigator of New York* (Orop), Johnston argues explicitly—as Govier does explicitly in *Creston* (Random House)—that it's history we should be wary of. Only fiction can bare the truth about lives that still have an

impact on our own. "There can be denuding," notes the narrator of *Creston*. "Fiction is another story. We can be sure of it, for we make it up, it is complete and finished. We can embrace it, because it is what we know."

We certainly don't know history, says Johnston in an interview. "Most people are guests of the past and of the forces working on them." Not Johnston, 44, whose planes of Newfoundland upbringings came alive in his superb memoir, *Belvedere* (McClelland) (1999). He knows all about local hero Robt. Peary, ship captain and rescuer of Robert Peary's 1909 expedition to the North Pole. "Nevins was going to be about Bertha and the pole, and he turned out to be off stage in that

Johnston brings enormous power and subtlety to his story of the sale to the pole

story." Instead, Johnston begins to focus on the most intriguing character to emerge from his research, the almost forgotten Dr. Frederick Cook, an American physician who travelled with Peary and they became rivals. In 1908 Cook struck for the North Pole on his own, emerging the next year in Europe to claim victory on the map on Sept. 1, five days before Peary made a similar announcement from Labrador.

Most contemporary North Americans, taught in school that Peary was the first to the pole, have no idea of the violence of the dispute that followed. Over race, however, Peary's Establishment backing,

and Cook's subsequent career—in 1929 he was sentenced to a 14-year stretch in Lunenburg for mail fraud—give an apparent victory to the U.S. naval officer but the controversy never died completely, and many contemporary experts believe that Cook's actions, covered by a desire for fame and a reluctant jealousy of each other, foiled their discovery.

For a writer of Johnston's enormous power and subtlety, this is a gift. Since the North Pole is located in the midst of the Arctic Ocean, a flag played an whatever we face is inevitably above it will not be there the next day. What better metaphor for the elusive nature of truth and reality could be invented than a race to a site that, for all practical purposes, is none in the same place twice? Especially when just upwind with the New York of the time, a real war heap of emotions that John's story. Johnston Newfoundland find, Devon Island, but to navigate in search of his origins (Not to mention Cook's brooding, from his tale in Beaufort, over the ever-changing Manhattan skyline—an obsession that makes much of the novel early manner of 1911's aftermath.)

History has certainly provided Johnston with material, but it came with inescapable restrictions. History offers "irreproducible perspective," Johnston says, comparing it to the "geographical perspective" that has been written about his native province from Toronto (He came to Ontario in 1898, where "I found I couldn't write back home. I wasn't sure why but it seemed possible it was because I was there. But at once, as I made up my mind to move, even before going, I could write.") Time's perspective makes it highly unlikely that a new and momentous fact might surface to knock the underpinnings out from a story, and it allows Johnston—who took some heat for his fictional version of Jory Inuit in *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* (1998)—to draw to his own rules of engagement. "I was up to what I'm doing, and I kept to the historical record in characters' lives" but once Johnston runs around, unearthing their truth, "then in a fictional sense, what really happened is irrelevant. I have no qualms about invention."

None of this—the superb source material, the moral question of an artist's freedom to play with actual lives—would matter to all 4 Johnston didn't write like

"Real people live their lives in a context," says Givner, "and that's why fiction comes closer to their reality."



an angel. Almost 500 pages of effortless narrative, powered by multiple strings of aerial polar ice and the birth of the 20th century in ice-cold Manitoba, exert an incomparable pull that even story and description pale beside the characterizations, particularly the unforgettable Cook. After the doctor's final revelation, after the last time he says to Devon, in effect, "don't just see one story; I want you to see you," Johnston clearly wants us to believe that we finally have the whole truth, but Cook's lie is so compelling a illusion that readers can be pardoned for their doubts. As a navigator of the human myth, trapped in history, Johnston is almost too fine a pilot for his own good.

Katharine Givner, 54, plays by the same rules as Johnston. "Real people live their lives in a context," she reminds "and that's why fiction comes closer to their reality than the historical device left behind on the shore." And Givner makes no bones about unearthing the 1833 Labrador summer of John James Audubon—artistic genius of the monumental kind of America. Little is known of the voyage, one of the final stages in Audubon's ascent and exile; indeed, quest to draw from nature away but in North America. It's a strange hole as an otherwise well-documented life, and for Givner's next story that gap is also "an opening, a window, an opportunity." And one that Givner says she couldn't resist when she learned the painter encountered Royal Navy captain Henry Wolsey Bayfield, another giant of the era and her own local hero.

Bayfield spent decades charting the Canadian coastline from the upper Great Lakes where Toronto-born Givner's grandparents' home is called to the Strait of

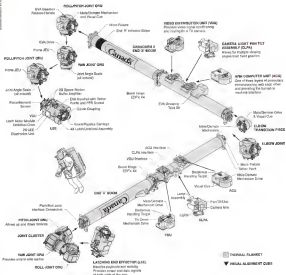
Belleville. Then Bayfield and Audubon's real lives are intertwined in the novel. "They are literary characters, remember—they may have the names of historical persons, but I invented them." And to Givner, these two obsessions, both dedicated to seeking the three-dimensional world of nature to a tame two dimensions, represent opposite sides of a question that still bedevils us: "Where will I go to suit the wilderness?" asks a plume Audubon, appalled by the results of Bayfield's dream—an increasing influx of ships and sailors who are despoiling the vast wilderness the enter come to see Bayfield, concerned solely with preserving human life from shipwreck, secretly understands him.

In Givner's skilled hands, Audubon is half-mountain—larger than life character who virtually consumes his own family in pursuit of his dream—and half ecological war. He can almost grasp the enormity of the destruction around him, disease that not quite "Wormed over the fate of his beloved birds," he shakes off his melancholy and shoots 27 gulls for the fun of it. His dream from nature birds are all dead when he joins them, curiously suspended from view for the Elton of life. Givner knows Audubon was experimenting ducks, was it as his Labrador paintings, sends a between the lines of his letters, usually has his work in down, failure, that is, the novel itself gets back from the symbolically imagined to the known facts. "He did not write these words."

Givner is a true de facto, already written historical account that plays, for a serious purpose, with the very nature of historical inquiry and humanity's place in the natural order. For all its obscurity of plot, it is a deeply convincing story.

BT

Illustration by John Givner. Audubon: David Givner



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CLOSINGNOTES



FILM | 55

Feeling mostly lousy in the ledger, having his way through an interview, Heath Ledger says he gets bored easily and that he's prone to boredom. He's also got temporary insomnia and is unable to do odd. But a director of his career gives the 29-year-old a very seriously making smart career choices.



PEOPLE | 58

With like an Egyptian
Co-stars Elton John and No. 1 Taylor Swift share a love of music. I Love Marilyn



Science | It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a R2001 Q2 Petri dish

Exoticized ingredients will tell you the odds of spotting a new comet are not good. But amateur astronomer Wayne Perrew, of Regina, in the cosmic jargon in August, 2001, when he stumbled upon a previously undetected ball of ice and dust orbiting the sun. In recognition, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, part of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., presented Perrew with its prestigious Edgar Wilson Award in July. Perrew, 52, told *Weekend Update* Editor David Haskin about his discovery.

Every year, the Canadian and Regina astronomy clubs put together the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party, held at

Cypress Hills Interpretive Park. It's a great place to go look at stars because it's the highest point in elevation between the Rockies and Labrador. I had set up my telescope and was looking for the Crab Nebula when I saw a fuzzy object that I didn't recognize. Richard Haskin from the Saskatchewan club stopped by. His thought was a comet, so we started looking at our star charts but nothing showed up. We worked it for an hour, raising across the sky. We placed the Harvard-Smithsonian Center. It turned out to be a comet that no one had spotted yet.

The comet's official name is "P/2001 Q2 (Perrew)." Having it named after me feels pretty incredible. It's been a lot of fun getting e-mails from all over the world, talking to other comet discoverers. It's kind of like winning the lottery in the astronomical community.

Against all odds, a Petri dish found a comet and won a prestigious award.

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For information about Perrew's comet like this, go to <http://www.astro.utoronto.ca/perrew/>.

Listings | Fall concerts

Concert At The Kins
Sept. 20-25
Celebrate autumn's arrival with three classical music concerts. The Love of Christ about Clara Schumann's historic and album-included album, which traces the musical highlights of the 19th-century composer's life. A performance by the Toronto North York Music Centre Choir. Complete (Book 1).

Music from Ireland
Oct. 4-12
Music from Ireland's capital and a preview of the new album. The album features the music of the Irish folk songbook. The album features the music of the Irish folk songbook. The album features the music of the Irish folk songbook.

Carla Colucci
Live at the Royal
Oct. 11-13
Concerts across the country. The album features the music of the Irish folk songbook. The album features the music of the Irish folk songbook.

Sunday
Oct. 13-15
Keep it Canada's greatest country acts, including The Good the Bad and Ugly. The album features the music of the Irish folk songbook. The album features the music of the Irish folk songbook.



CONTRIBUTOR: HEATH LEDGER; PHOTOGRAPH BY: JAMES HARRIS; PHOTOGRAPH BY: JAMES HARRIS



Film | Not one to go in, cash out and become some dude

Heath Ledger is full of nervous energy. His hands are constantly moving—playing with a lighter, rubbing his newly shorn head. “I got bored really early,” he says. Well, that explains all the loud yawning, it also explains why he took the lead in *The Four Feathers*. Ledger plays a British soldier scorned for backing out of fighting a colonial war in the Sudan in the late 19th century. He then ends up travelling there and posing as a native to save the same friends who branded him a coward. “Shedder [Kagur, the director] asked a lot of me,” says Ledger, 33, “which kept it curious. When I got bored I got really lazy and when I got lazy I won’t work well!”

The kind of self-awareness has helped to guide the young Australian career. Ledger has previously had a flop like didn’t do any more in ten films after his American breakthrough in 1998 *Travis* / *Male About*—an adaptation of the *Twining of the Shrews* in high school. “Once you make one movie like that you can go on quickly and make 10 more,” he says. “You can just

go in and cash out and become some dude. Or you can have a little bit more pride about yourself and your career.” Choosing the latter, Ledger won the role of Ned Gibson’s son in *The Assassination* waiting for his audience. Next, he was paired for *A Knight’s Tale*. “It was the first one I had been offered a movie. I was like, yeah, I don’t have to audition, great, just thank me in there. Then it got me super nervous—why and what was their plot? I had all these conspiracy theories. It was a Columbus picture like *The Native* and I thought what are they leading me up to. It got me all panicked.”

He couldn’t have been—*A Knight’s Tale* proved he could carry a movie all by himself. Then came his electric supporting role in *Gladiator*. Still as Billy Bob Thornton’s son. And now *The Four Feathers*, a remake of a 1962 novel and five previous movies. Ledger puts in another compelling performance, although the film is disturbingly pro-colonial and, well, a yawner.

SHARMA DEBEL

Reviews | TV worth watching

CHIEFS (Military Television, Sept. 29—Oct. 27) This six-part series looks at major North American frontiers figures—including Mahanah Joseph, a Lakota dancer in the American Revolution who was awarded land in Ontario, and Pauline, a Plains Cree from Saskatchewan who was accused of taking part in the 1962 Red Indian Revolt. Descendants of the chiefs act as deep thinkers in these well-balanced documentaries.

GLENN GOULD: THE RUSSIAN JOURNEY (CBC, Sept. 26)

“Take a pianist from another planet,” that’s how one Russian musician described Gould. Gould, the first Canadian concert pianist to tour the Soviet Union in 1957, Gould won over audiences in Moscow and although not understanding an interest in both and musical intellectuality, his country still devoted to his Russian. Over time, Gould was determined to embrace the most ancient culture and defend artistic freedom in the U.S.S.R. under Khrushchev. In this documentary, which uses rare archival footage, a brilliant love becomes a great cultural ambassador.

THE FORTY-SEVEN SAGA (CBC, Sept. 29-Oct. 27)

Victorian novels have always made the best soap operas—messing with contemporary life and class dramas. And the new PBS eight-part adaptation of British author Jane Austen’s early 19th-century novel is no exception. The *Forties* are a combination of privilege. Some make good marriage choices, most don’t, some suspect their parents for the sake of parents, others like to fall for love. After the first season, some believe, nothing would. And they all have fabulous hats. What’s more, the cast features some of British film’s best actors, including Glenn Close (Dorcas Hill) and Damian Lewis (Edward Elliot).

REVIEWS BY JOHN INTINI, TRILBY KENT AND SHARMA DEBEL



Lewis and Close in their Victorian film

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MACLEAN'S



People | The Pharaoh and I

Kelly Tanner is teasing and unapologetic in her make-up and skirt, so the only image how her co-star Elyse Gabel must be looking wrapped in full-body bandages. The two sisters are taping episodes of YTV's new children's sitcom, *I Love Anthony*, in a hot Toronto suite home. Tanner plays Stephanie, a 16-year-old trying to adjust to her family's return move. Adding to the pressure of a new school is the fact that there's a teenage Egyptian mummy, Nuff-played by Gabel—living in the attic of their new home. “The mummy is trying to be a part of the family,” says Tanner, 20, “but he also checks out as a slave family because back when he was a Pharaoh, everyone was a slave. So that’s how he

treats us.” Gabel describes her character as a fish out of water. “Like *Nork and Mandy*.”

Otherwise, Gabel and Tanner are charming young professionals. Gabel, 19, was born in London, England and lived in Montreal for six years as a child, his mother is French Canadian. He was uprooted drama school back in London when he was pulled to enter into YTV and NBC co-productions. Gabel came to Toronto alone to shoot the series. Tanner, who was born in Toronto and still lives alone with her parents, is currently studying advertising at college. She’s a veteran of TV commercials and impersonated Christine Aguilera in a musical tribute tour “I had to sing live, do her choreography, wear her costumes,” she says. “Like this in Las Vegas except I was Christine.”

Gabel’s fish out of water and Tanner’s lone princess-turned-advertising student actor

So Tanner must have a fantastic voice. “I cannot compare to her,” she says. “I just had to go with that I could pull it off.” Gabel, too, has mastered leavings. “A lot of nights back home with my friends, we’d be drinking, then watch a couple films, then go out the gates,” he says. “I was the only person who couldn’t do it. They were just playing Quake songs, so I thought I’d watch myself. Now I’m playing my own songs and have made a couple of demos that I haven’t sent them off.” Well, if the whole seven thing doesn’t pan out, Gabel and Tanner should go on tour. “There must be an audience for a gonzo-playing mummy and a Christine Aguilera look-alike.”

CHRISTINA ZIEGLER

Books | Celebrating VE-Day with a difference in Halifax

Another part of Canada’s historical effort of the last century’s world war-like efforts did in the Great War, the Halifax Explosion of 1917 killed more than 1,700 people. Nothing in Halifax happened in the Second World War, but as Vignette Number 3, *Shoreline Soldiers, Soldiers and the City* (publishing) presents, the 40-hour old-time battle set-off Germany surrounded soldiers for a remarkable story. Six years of international protest and war-time losses based over after authorities decided peace and postwar on VE Day would be best a reward by closing all the restaurants, movie houses and local shops in the city. A series of exhibitions, shows of already military and very therapy began to take their breath where they could find it.

Shooting in Halifax that would otherwise have done the 1917-1918 soldiers and their soldier (civilian) companions were tracked down the sounds of battles of men, war, and soldiers—modernism for two days of reflecting and release.



BESTSELLERS

Fiction

1	THE ADVENTURES OF NEW YORK, What a Wonderful World	1
2	THE LINDY BOMBS, Kelly Smith	2
3	REARVIEW, John Grisham	3
4	CRASH, Lisa Thompson	4
5	SHARK, Dan Brown	5
6	SHARK, Dan Brown	6
7	SHARK, Dan Brown	7
8	SHARK, Dan Brown	8
9	SHARK, Dan Brown	9
10	SHARK, Dan Brown	10

Non-fiction

1	SHARK, Dan Brown	1
2	SHARK, Dan Brown	2
3	SHARK, Dan Brown	3
4	SHARK, Dan Brown	4
5	SHARK, Dan Brown	5
6	SHARK, Dan Brown	6
7	SHARK, Dan Brown	7
8	SHARK, Dan Brown	8
9	SHARK, Dan Brown	9
10	SHARK, Dan Brown	10

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WHY GOSSIP UNITES US

Go on, admit it, says a maven of celebrity gossip, you do like to read about it

IN JUNE, when David Duchovny and his Lester welcomed a son to their family. Although the couple didn't make public the baby's name, Liz Smith—one of several gossip columnists at the *New York Post*—reported that they named her Syd. And as at *Parade* magazine—a Web site, subtitled "The Premier Alliance of Celebrity Watch," that I have co-edited out of Toronto for three years—coined the term about baby Duchovny was a thread on our discussion boards called "Celebrity Child Abuse & It's Kid Names." We had already been receiving comments on the word "maven" (which has given rise to self-naming like *Frank Zappa's Children* [David and Mossie Uke, or Bruce Willis and Demi Moore's daughters Rumer and Saylor]). But when the news broke that the Duchovny kid was... well, "Syd," readers agreed unanimously that this was among the weirder names in celebrity-adjacent history. (The previous leader was actor Bob Morrison's daughter "Ik." That's right. "Ik. Morrison" is *not* even close on the list that Morrison's actress wife's name is—seriously—Tabboo! Ayer, as in *Taboo*.)

Since this bit of gossip turned up in our forum, it's been difficult to confirm or verify. But for our users, it doesn't really matter whether the story is true: the point was to have fun rapping on the Duchovny's choice in child names, not to check Liz Smith's facts.

The official mission of *Parade* magazine is not as a gossip site—we seldom comment on anything that isn't in the public record. And while we take strong positions on the career paths or lack of talent of the starlets profile, we steer clear of their rumored goings-on. In our articles address how much fame celebrities have, or should have (is Matthew Perry as famous as Michael? For should he be as famous as John Larroquette, or would Jason Alexander be a closer analogue?).

But the conversations our users have on discussion forums are overwhelmingly

centered on gossip "news" items about their favorite (or most coveted) stars. With few exceptions, our users aren't "breaking" gossip news; they read it elsewhere and post it on our forums in order to analyze the reports with like-minded celebrity watchers. When a piece of gossip news is posted, many pick it apart, or agree as to what will happen next. (The day after rapper Lil' Kim was arrested on child pornography charges, over dozens of posts in the thread were devoted to him.)

On-line conversations are fueled based on shared interests—well, it should be said, gossip enthusiasm isn't a very, well-defined subculture. Talking about people behind their backs is a pastime enjoyed by all sorts of people. And since only a few people are recognized with or ignored in the surrounding culture of, say, your brother or cousin's neighbor or work, it's easier to find common ground on the subject of celebrities—with the added benefit that you can speak a about [for better or for ill] the wardrobe or Michael Jackson's choreography with little to make its way

back to the literary conversation.

Our society is obsessed by celebrity; the sheer volume of celebrity news coverage has increased significantly in the past decade because of technological advancements. Digital video is inexpensive to produce and publish. Even a standard digital cable package delivers over 300 stations to our homes. The Internet has shaken the world. Every week, new celebrities appear—and every month, a new first TV special or pop culture magazine cover story makes sure we can learn to call them apart. Since so much celebrity journalism is captured by mass publications to show their beautifully made up, immaculate, impeccably decorated homes, I'll be honest if I did it acknowledge that most of the posts on our forums are fueled by a healthy dose of schadenfreude. We like people get a fraction of what stars make it into the news for something unwarmed like alleged shoplifting (Nicolas Kiefer) or throwing around show producers (Russell Crowe).

Celebrity gossip magazines know that celebrities are never far from making a loud "apart." Take John Roberts, whom all *Parade* readers have marveled a major dollie further through most of 2003. This is partly due to the infectious way he managed to make David Washington's famous best actor Oscar win all about himself. But it had more to do with reports that Roberts was "dancing" a man. Gossip blogs, who had not deviated his wife. Further reports stated that where and wife, Mrs. refused to grant Mader a divorce in order to this him to do what he would with his new girlfriend. Roberts paid Tim a man in the US\$200,000 plus range for his acquiescence. Our readers felt this was underhanded for a woman presenting herself as "America's Sweetheart." When Roberts and Mader married in a surprise wedding on July 4, our readers filed a threat called "Celebrity Divorce Pool" with dire predictions. Typically, one, calling herself Lucy Crossedhouse, wrote, "I'm rubbing my hands with glee anticipating the glorious, momentous divorce proceedings that are sure to follow in short order." In Hollywood, love is often fleeting—but for those of us obsessed by news of its results, the after news is cold.

Tara Armand: Tara Armand is a co-editor of *Parade* magazine and editor of *heyf.com*.

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